おおきく振りかぶって

Vol.9

ひぐちアサ

HIGUCHI ASA

アフタヌーンKC

おおきく振りかぶって 9 ひぐちアサ

アフタヌーン KC482

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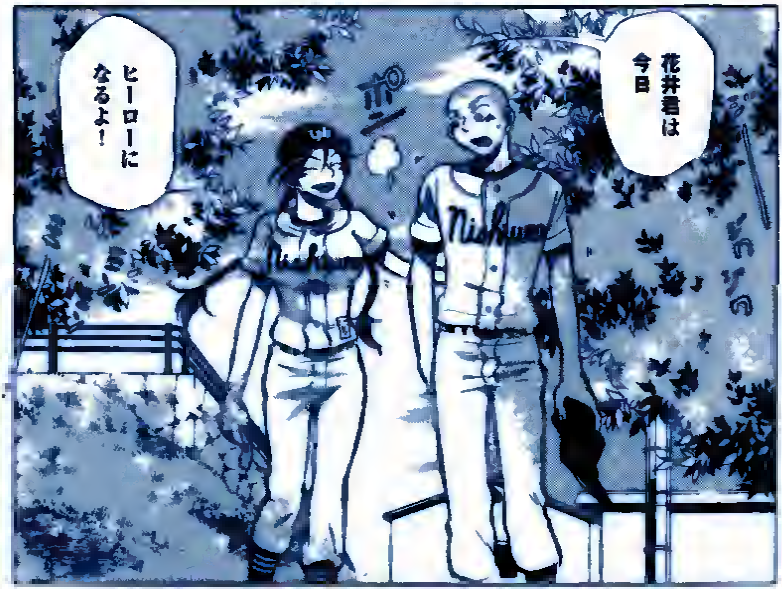
1年生だけでスタートした西浦高校は接戦の末、夏の選手権大会の初戦に勝利した。
しかし、4番田島は試合中に右腕を負傷していた。
次の試合までには1週間のインターバルがあったが、田島の腕は完治しない。百枝監督は
田島の負担がなるべく軽くなるよう守備と打順を大きく変更して3回戦に挑む！



センター花井　梓、主将で4番！
この試合のヒーローは君だ！

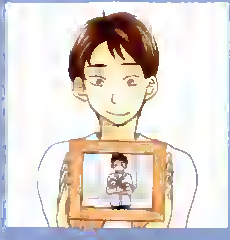
CHARACTER PROFILE

(1) Name (2) Birthdate (3) Bloodtype
(4) Height (5) Calls her child (6) Child calls her

MISAE ABE

①阿部美佐枝
(Abe Misae)
② June 29
③ O
④ 160 cm
⑤ Taka
⑥ Mom

KAZUMI NISHIHIRO



①西広かずみ
(Nishihiro Kazumi)
② January 5
③ O
④ 156 cm
⑤ Shintarou
⑥ Mom

ETSUKO SHINOOKA

①篠岡悦子
(Shinooka Etsuko)
② August 2
③ B
④ 154 cm
⑤ Chiyo, Chi
⑥ Mom

CHARACTER PROFILE

(1) Name (2) Birthday (3) Blood type (4) Height and Weight (5) Defensive Position (6) Throwing/batting arm (7) Year/Class (8)Family members

HIROKI OYAMA

①小山大樹
(Oyama Hiroki)
② July 18
③ A
④ 168cm / 65kg
⑤ Shortstop
⑥ R / R
⑦ Year 3 Class 1
⑧ Grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, older brother

YUTAKA ICHIHARA

①市原 豊
(Ichihara Yutaka)
② May 2
③ O
④ 171 cm / 62 kg
⑤ Pitcher, outfielder
⑥ L / L
⑦ Year 2 Class 5
⑧ Grandfather, father, mother, younger brother

DAICHI SAKURA

①佐倉大地
(Sakura Daichi)
② October 9
③ B
④ 183 cm / 74 kg
⑤ Catcher
⑥ R / R
⑦ Year 1 Class 6
⑧ Grandfather father, mother older brother older brother older brother younger sister

Cover Design ARTEN

burp
plop

Content

Chapter 17 – The Next Is?!
Chapter 18 – The Third Round

YO, ROKA-SAN.
YO.
I AM DOWN.
YOU SEEM DOWN, MR. FORMER CAPTAIN.
twitch
HA?!
JUST LIKE YOU WERE THREE YEARS AGO.
ERUGAN

YOU'VE BECOME MORE SELF-CONSCIOUS, KAZUKI!
HAHA!
thump
BOOKS
Stand

WELL, SIT DOWN! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
ORDER ANY-THING YOU LIKE!
clatter
AS LONG AS IT'S UNDER 1500 YEN!
Grin
sfx 1500 yen = 15 US$
THEN, I WANT GYOZA (185) AND SHARK'S FIN RICE (811),
AND TULUFAN-STYLE FRIED CHICKEN!
Shine!
...THAT'S A CREEPY TRICK OF YOURS.
IT'S EXACTLY 1500 YEN. .
I'LL CHIP IN 100 YEN.
clatter
TSK.
SO START TALKING YOUR 1500 YEN'S WORTH.
HMM. I'LL TELL YOU THAT THEY'RE ON THEIR THIRD ROUND NOW, THEN.

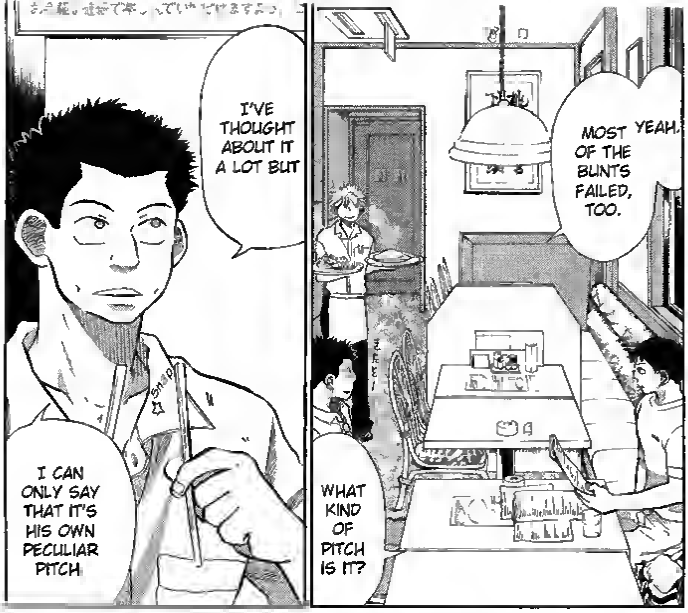
YOU REALLY ARE
QUITE THE SMART-ASS, AREN'T YOU...
YOU CAN ADD MORE IF YOU WANT!
I'M NOT PAYING ANY MORE MONEY.
EVEN IF YOU HADN'T CALLED ME, YOU COULD HAVE JUST TALKED TO RIO.
HE DIDN'T EVEN PLAY DURING THE GAME, SO THAT WOULDN'T WORK
WHAT ABOUT VIDEOS?
RIO WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU ALL THE DATA ALONG WITH THEM
DIDN'T BIJOU TAKE VIDEOS?
WE DID.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING
GYOZA, SHARK'S FIN RICE AND TULUFAN-STYLE FRIED CHICKEN, RIGHT.
THANKS FOR THE FOOD.

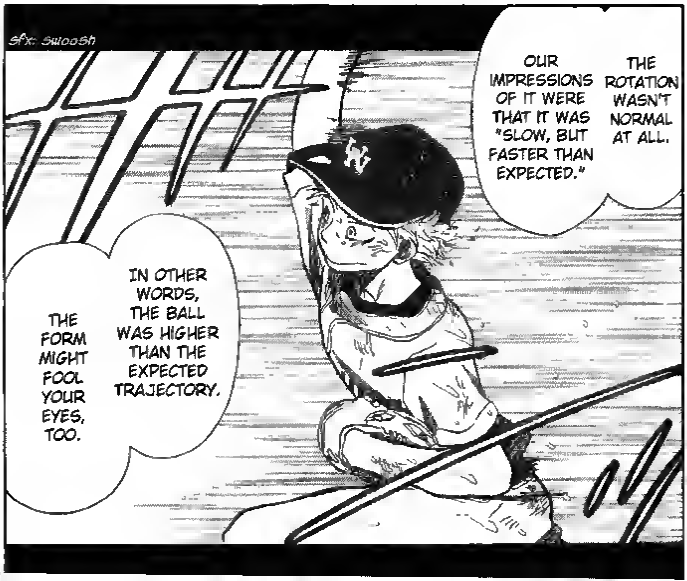
THE PARENTS WITH THIRD YEARS OR THOSE ON THE BENCH WENT TO OUR GAME.
THE FIRST-YEARS' PARENTS JUST CHASED THE BALL WITH THE CAMERA BECAUSE THEY'RE NEW AT IT.
WE HAD THE PTA MEMBERS TAKE TURNS LIKE NORMAL, BUT
THERE WAS A GAME ON THE SAME DAY AS THEIR SECOND ROUND.
Sway
IT'S JUST LIKE YESTER-DAY
WHEN MY OWN PARENTS WERE DOING THE SAME THING.
I RE-MEMBER IT SO WELL!
Hehe!
DON'T LAUGH.
I'M HERE, SO IT'S FINE,
BUT THEY TRUST THAT YOU'LL LEAVE IT TO THEM SO IT'LL BE BAD IF THEY HEAR.
ANYWAY, WE WON'T BE PLAYING THEM FOR ANOTHER THREE ROUNDS.
I WONDER IF THEY EVEN THINK THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE IT THAT FAR...

clench
DID YOU GUYS LOSE BECAUSE OF A FLUKE
OR DID YOU SELF-DES-TRUCT?
... THERE WAS... THAT, TOO... BUT...
I DON'T THINK THAT WAS ALL THERE WAS TO IT.
sneak
IF YOU WANT TO SAY IT BLUNTLY ...
IN THE CASE OF BOTH OUR TEAMS,
THIS YEAR, IT WAS EXPECTED FOR IT TO JUST BE PRELIMINARY MATCHES UNTIL THE FIFTH ROUND.

...
IT'S NATURAL TO GET A BAD FEELING WHEN A DARK HORSE SUDDENLY POPS UP.
AH...
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?
WHEN I THINK THAT ROKA-SAN REALIZED THAT BAD FEELING WHEN WE LOST TO NISHIURA...
THAT'S NOT IT.
I WANT TO REPAY ROKA-SAN FOR ALL YOUR HELP
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A LITTLE BITTER ABOUT IT.
YOU NEVER BACK DOWN, DO YOU ...
I really am re-paying it.
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU HAVE THAT ATTITUDE!
Hehe!
SO YOU DO WANT TO REPAY WHAT YOU OWE ME!

I WATCHED THE VIDEOS, TOO, BUT...
YOU GUYS WERE PRETTY TERRIBLE.
rustle
HERE IT IS!
thump
YOU THINK SO?
YOU WERE AIMING FOR THE CURVEBALL IN THE BEGINNING, RIGHT?
THEY WERE FOCUSING ON USING THE CURVEBALL UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME.
AND THEN THEY SWITCHED TO CONCENTRATING ON THE FASTBALL IN THE LATTER HALF.
NOT MANY OF THE FASTBALLS WERE THROWN IN THE FIRST HALF.
AND ALL OF THEM POPPED UP.
rustle

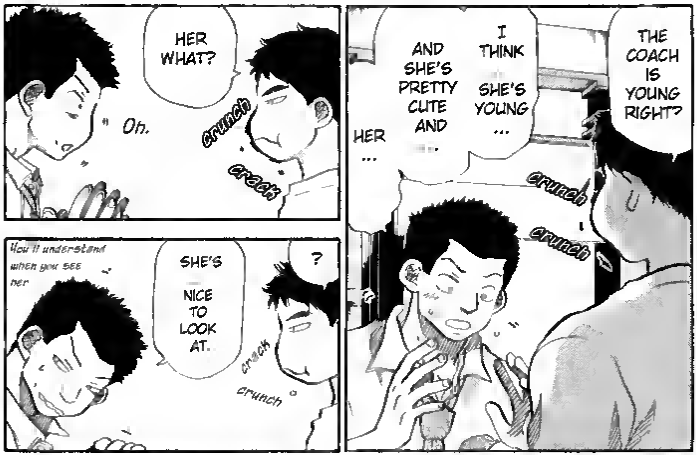

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT BUT
I CAN ONLY SAY THAT IT'S HIS OWN PECULIAR PITCH.
WHAT KIND OF PITCH IS IT?
YEAH. MOST OF THE BUNTS FAILED, TOO.


SFX: SWOOSH
THE FORM MIGHT FOOL YOUR EYES, TOO.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE BALL WAS HIGHER THAN THE EXPECTED TRAJECTORY.
OUR IMPRESSIONS OF IT WERE THAT IT WAS "SLOW, BUT FASTER THAN EXPECTED."
THE ROTATION WASN'T NORMAL AT ALL.

WE HAD NO DATA ON THEM AT ALL, SO WE REACTED TOO SLOWLY TO THEIR FASTBALL.
HOW DO YOU THINK WE COULD LEARN HOW TO HIT IT?
gulp
SO THEY USED IT AS IF THEY KNEW IT WAS A PECULIAR PITCH?
O'neu eating now.
OF COURSE.
SO IN THE FIRST HALF, THEY SAVED IT.
blow
THE BALL HAS NO SPEED TO IT, SO ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, IT'S ALL OVER.
NO.
HM?
GIVE ME A BITE
HEY,
chew
YOU'D HAVE TO FACE THE PITCHER YOURSELF.
Aon
NOT AT ALL
munch
TSK... ALL I'M DRINKING IS WATER DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SYMPATHY?
SO THERE'S NO WAY TO PRACTICE FOR IT.

JUNTA, WAS IT?
I DID.
HE SAID THAT THEY READ HIS WINDUP MOTION.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR IT FROM RIO?
THEN, NEXT, BASE STEALS.
WHAT'S WITH THIS NUMBER?
Aaah
Chump
Urgh
IT SEEMS THAT ONLY THEIR CLEANUP HITTER COULD SEE IT.
ACCORD -ING TO THE COACH,
HE WASN'T A ROOKIE.
DOES TOSEI USE ROOKIES AS THEIR ACE NOW?
rattle
SHE KEPT SENDING THEM ANNOYINGLY DETAILED SIGNS DURING THE GAME.
SHE HAD A GREAT GRASP OF THE PLAYERS.
chew
WHY DID HE GO TO A SCHOOL LIKE NISHIURA?
AH, THAT "TAJIMA YUUICHI-ROU" GUY.
WHAT ABOUT THEIR COACH? A WOMAN, RIGHT?
ALTHOUGH IT'S BETTER THAN IF HE'D GONE TO A GOOD TEAM, I GUESS

THE VARIETY OF SIGNS ALSO RIVALS OURS.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER ALL THE SIGNS WHEN I WAS A FIRST-YEAR

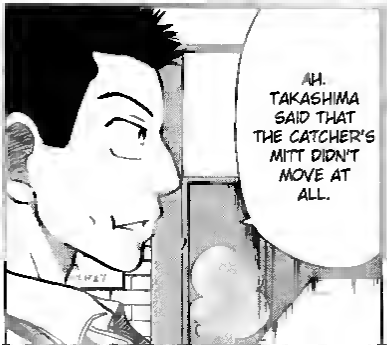

THE COACH IS YOUNG RIGHT?
I THINK SHE'S YOUNG...
AND SHE'S PRETTY CUTE AND...
HER...
crunch
crunch
HER WHAT?
crunch
crunch
Oh.
SHE'S NICE TO LOOK AT.
?
crunch
crunch
You'll understand when you see her

WHAT ABOUT DEFENSE?
crunch
WE JUST KEPT HITTING FLY BALLS SO WE DON'T REALLY KNOW FOR SURE
AH...
THAT ONE ON RIGHT FIELD HAS A GOOD ARM

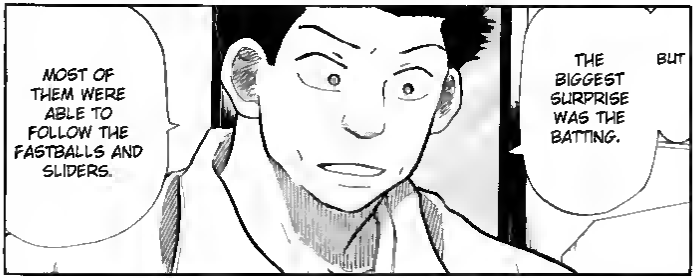
SFX
Swoosh
GROOOH!
HOW WAS THE CATCHER?
THAT WAS ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE
IT WAS ON THE TAPE, SO I WATCHED IT.
THE ROCKET BACK HOME IN THE NINTH INNING?

THEY HAVE A GOOD VARIETY OF PITCHES
ONLY ONE WALK
HIS CONTROL IS GOOD.

HIS THROWING ARM WAS ORDINARY
IT'S GOOD IF YOU CONSIDER THAT HE'S A FIRST YEAR.
HE WAS ALSO GIVING EXTREMELY DETAILED SIGNS


AH. TAKASHIMA SAID THAT THE CATCHER'S MITT DIDN'T MOVE AT ALL.

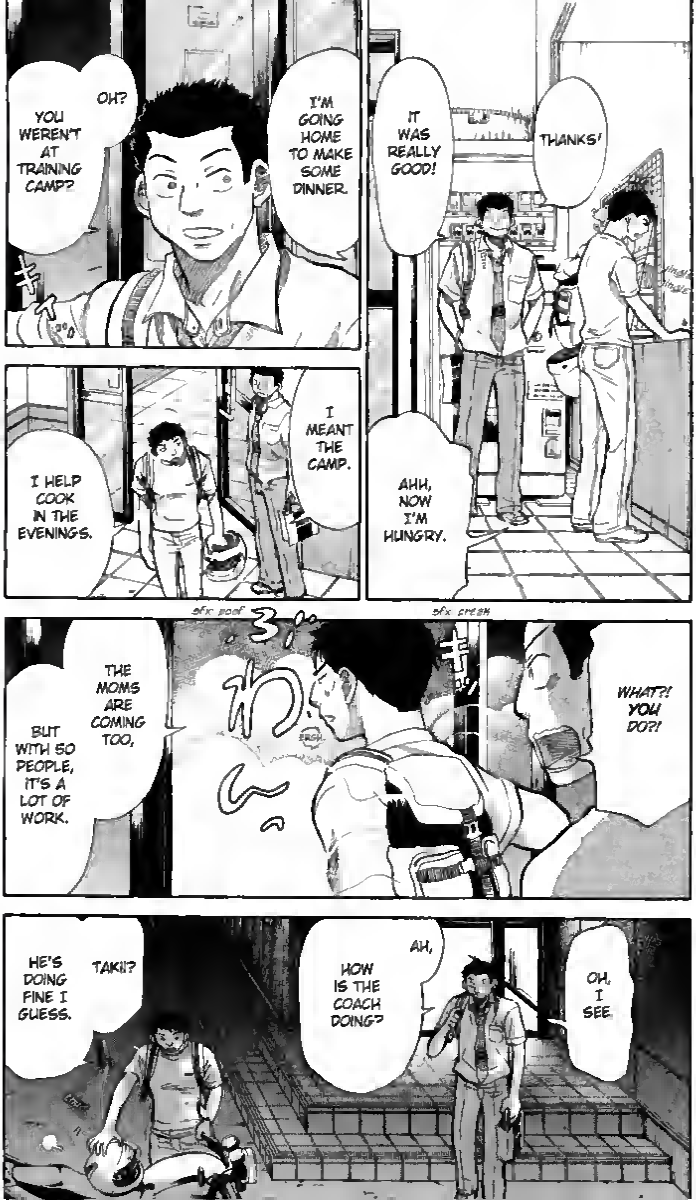
TAKA-SHIMA... HE WAS ON THE BENCH, WASN'T HE?
SEEMS LIKE HE'S EXAGGERATING A LOT.
ABOUT THAT... THERE WERE A LOT OF DIFFERENT PITCHES THAT READ LIKE THEY FOLLOWED THE SAME COURSE.
BUT THEN AGAIN, IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE WOULD HAVE THAT KIND OF PRECISE CONTROL.


BUT THE BIGGEST SURPRISE WAS THE BATTING.
MOST OF THEM WERE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE FASTBALLS AND SLIDERS.

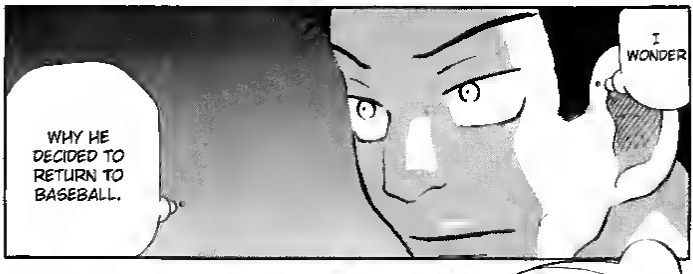
AFTER THEY GOT ON BASE, THEY STOLE SECOND AND THIRD.
BECAUSE OF THE RAIN, OUR PITCHER WASN'T ABLE TO PITCH FORKBALLS HALFWAY THROUGH THE GAME, SO OUR PITCHES LOST SOME LEEWAY
IN THE END, THEIR CLEANUP WAS EVEN ABLE TO HIT OUR SINKER...

HMM
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT WHY YOU LOST.
LET'S SEE... THEIR DEFENSE IS UNKNOWN,
THEIR BATTING IS PROBABLY COMPARABLE TO TOSEI'S.
WHEN YOU GET FAR IN THE SPRING TOURNAMENT, YOUR OPPONENTS CAN PREPARE DURING THE SUMMER LIKE THEY DID, SO IT'S BAD.
はぐ
もごもご
もぐもぐ
カチャ
もぐもぐ
もぐもぐ
もぐもぐ

IF YOU WERE TO PLAY THE GAME AGAIN, HOW WOULD YOU ATTACK?
JUST ONE LAST THING!
WHAT IS IT? I'VE ALREADY EATEN.
EEEH
grab
grab
I HAD THE SAME THOUGHT, ROKA-SAN.
.....
THAT WILL BE 1500 YEN, PLEASE.
WELL, WHAT-EVER.
COME ON, LET'S GO
AREN'T WE PUTTING ON AIRS.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

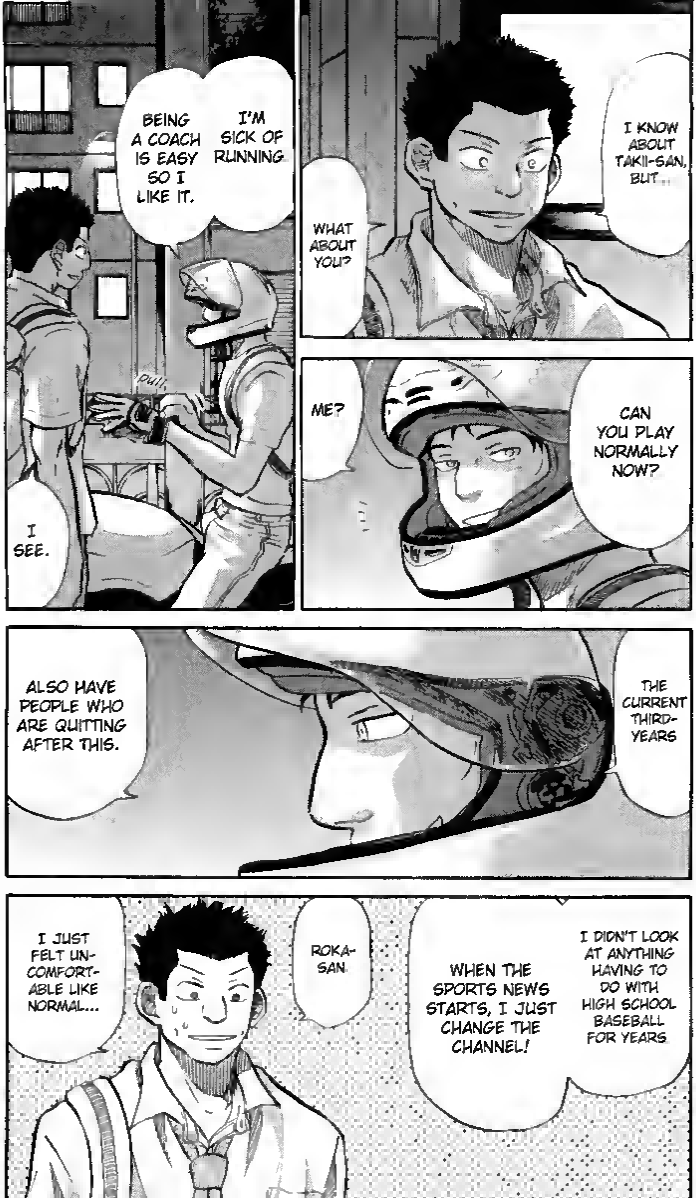

OH?
YOU WEREN'T AT TRAINING CAMP?
I'M GOING HOME TO MAKE SOME DINNER.
sfx creak
IT WAS REALLY GOOD!
THANKS!
I MEANT THE CAMP.
I HELP COOK IN THE EVENINGS.
AHH, NOW I'M HUNGRY.
sfx poof
sfx creak
THE MOMS ARE COMING TOO,
BUT WITH SO PEOPLE, IT'S A LOT OF WORK.
WHAT?! YOU DO?!
AH,
HOW IS THE COACH DOING?
OH, I SEE.
TAKI?
HE'S DOING FINE I GUESS.

HE'S ENERGETIC,
AND AN IDIOT AS USUAL
HE STILL CAN'T THROW A BALL,
BUT HE'S ALWAYS CHEERFUL
OH YEAH, TAKII-SAN
HE INJURED HIS SHOULDER BADLY IN JUNIOR HIGH
IN HIGH SCHOOL, HE WENT TO BIJOU INSTEAD OF TOSEI.


I WONDER
WHY HE DECIDED TO RETURN TO BASEBALL.

KAZUKI
EH?
EVEN THOUGH YOU LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND,
THE COACH SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE A GOOD COLLEGE TO ACCEPT A CAPTAIN
Click

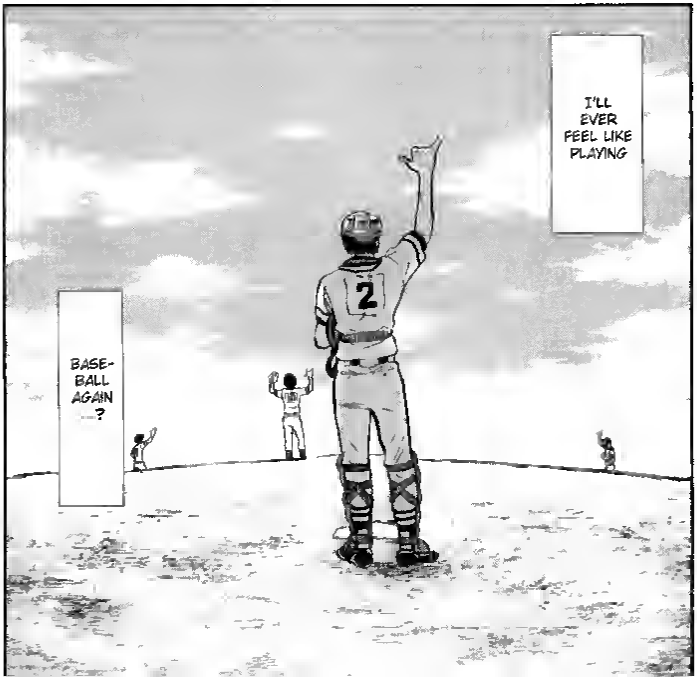
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS.
YOU'RE NOT APPLYING WITH A BASEBALL RECOMMENDATION?
WHAT'S WITH THE REFERENCE BOOKS?
OH, YEAH. YOU'RE GOOD IN SCHOOL, TOO, RIGHT?
IF I RECALL, THE BEST IN THE CLUB
I TOLD HIM HE SHOULD TRY TAKING ANOTHER LOOK AT HIS REPORT CARD!
RIO WAS SAYING HE'D TAKE THE EXAM FOR BIJOU LIKE NORMAL!
I MADE HIM STOP 'CAUSE IT SUCKED!
THIS IS THE GUY RIO IS ALWAYS BOTHERED BY...
THE BASEBALL CLUB IS FULL OF COMPLETE MORONS!
IT'S NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT!


I KNOW ABOUT TAKII-SAN, BUT...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M SICK OF RUNNING
BEING A COACH IS EASY SO I LIKE IT.
Pull
I SEE.
ME?
CAN YOU PLAY NORMALLY NOW?
THE CURRENT THIRD-YEARS
ALSO HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE QUITTING AFTER THIS.
I DIDN'T LOOK AT ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FOR YEARS.
WHEN THE SPORTS NEWS STARTS, I JUST CHANGE THE CHANNEL!
ROKA-SAN.
I JUST FELT UN-COMFORT-ABLE LIKE NORMAL...

HE MIGHT TRY TO AVOID THE ISSUE WITH HIS JOKES,
BUT I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ROKA-SAN'S LAST GAME.
YEP! THAT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER!
IT'D BE DEPRESSING IF IT WAS JUST US WHO LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND!

AFTER THE ENDING CEREMONY, THE THIRD-YEARS ALL STOOD ON THE FIELD WITH TEARS IN THEIR EYES,
BUT ROKA-SAN DIDN'T SHOW HIS FACE EVEN ONCE.
EVERYONE WAS CRYING, BUT ROKA-SAN JUST STOOD THERE.
5

I WONDER IF...
BUT EVEN ROKA-SAN IS STILL INVOLVED IN BASEBALL


BASE-BALL AGAIN...?
I'LL EVER FEEL LIKE PLAYING
2

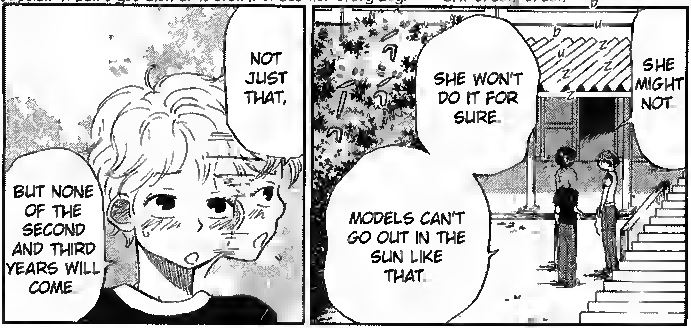
HMM, JUST SUPPOSING
THEY WENT TO KOUSHIEN NEXT YEAR, I'D BE SHOCKED.
HAHA, REALLY?
IF THAT HAPPENS, IN RIO'S THIRD YEAR THEY'LL LOSE IN THE FIRST ROUND!
AWESOME!
HA...
I DON'T KNOW HOW SERIOUS HE IS...
sfx chirp chirp
sfx rustle rustle
CHIYO!

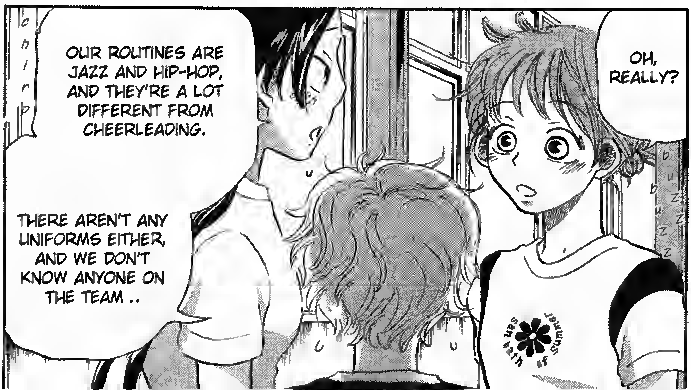
HEY! HOW WAS THE GAME?
sfx: tweet tweet tweet
girls soccer
HEY
WE LOST, ACTUALLY
WELL, WE HAD A QUESTION FOR YOU...
ARE YOU BUSY?
NO, IT'S FINE!
YOU GUYS GO ON AHEAD
OKAY.
chirp
chirp
chirp
chirp
chirp
ARE YOU WORN OUT?
NOPE, I'M FINE!
WHAT'S UP?
UM, WELL
ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH THE OUENDAN LEADER?
HAMADA-SAN?
WELL, I'VE TALKED TO HIM BEFORE...
tweet tweet
tweet
chirp
chirp
AHHH
WELL
YOU SEE
IT'S LIKE
?
UM.

WHAT IF WE
UH, WANTED TO...
...BE CHEER-LEADERS...
OR SOME-THING...
rental news
OH, WITH THE QUEN-DAN?
THAT'D BE PRETTY COO...
sfx grab
WAIT!
HOLD ON A SEC!
....WHA?
MM, WELL, WE'RE IN THE DANCE CLUB, BUT...
OH, RIGHT.
WHICH ONE AGAIN?
THERE ARE THREE OF THEM, I THOUGHT.
fidget
fidget
fidget

OH, THE ONE WITH A MODEL AS A MEMBER, RIGHT?
SHE'S SO PRETTY!!
AHHH, OCHI-SENPAI!!
SHE'S SOOOO PRETTY!
毎日見てるけど あきないよ〜!!
OH, BUT YOU KNOW, SHE ..

Caption I don't get sick of it even if I see her every day. SFX croak, croak

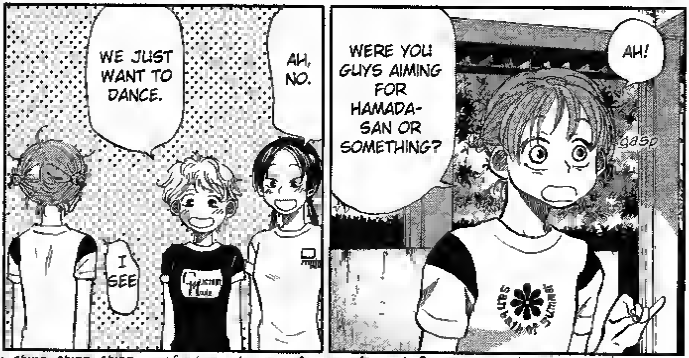

SHE MIGHT NOT.
SHE WON'T DO IT FOR SURE.
MODELS CAN'T GO OUT IN THE SUN LIKE THAT.
NOT JUST THAT,
BUT NONE OF THE SECOND AND THIRD YEARS WILL COME.


OH, REALLY?
OUR ROUTINES ARE JAZZ AND HIP-HOP, AND THEY'RE A LOT DIFFERENT FROM CHEERLEADING.
THERE AREN'T ANY UNIFORMS EITHER, AND WE DON'T KNOW ANYONE ON THE TEAM ..
chirp
chirp

I GET IT!
YOU MEAN YOU GUYS ARE THE ONLY ONES,
SO WE SHOULDN'T THINK THAT THE DANCE CLUB IS DOING IT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IS IT OKAY FOR JUST THE TWO OF US?
SHOULD WE NOT EVEN TRY?
SFX: croak
I LIKE CHEER-LEADERS!
I THINK EVERYONE ELSE'D APPRECIATE IT TOO!
SFX badump
SHI-NOOKA
YEAH?
SO COULD YOU MAKE AN EXTRA ONE?
TODAY, MIHASHI IS SUPPOSED TO EAT THREE ONIGIRIS,
SO THAT'S ONLY FOR MIHASHI-KUN?
YEAH, THAT'S FINE.

YEAH,
HE LOST WEIGHT SO WE'RE MAKING HIM EAT MORE.
I got the okay from Coach.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU PUT INSIDE IT.
GOT IT
buzz buzz
Sfx: oh my gawd!
WOW!
YOU TALKED WITH HIM!!
WELL, YEAH!
.....
SEE YA!
THANKS A LOT.
See ya!
ONE EXTRA! ONIGIRI!
WOW, SO CLOSE!
blah blah blah
IT'S JUST WORK-RELATED!!

ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH ONE OF THEM, CHIYO?
THAT TYPE OF FEEL-ING...
poof
IS ABSOLUTELY ZERO, OKAY.


AH!
dash
WERE YOU GUYS AIMING FOR HAMADA-SAN OR SOMETHING?
AH, NO.
WE JUST WANT TO DANCE.
I SEE

sfx chirp chirp chirp
sfx buzz buzz
Capt on Class 1-9 vs class 2-1, 1st s start!
GOT IT, MIHASHI?
push
push

I WANT YOU TO RUN THIS POSITION THE WHOLE TIME
buzz
buzz
THREE METERS FROM MY SIDE!
chirp
chirp
chirp
chirp
O-
OKAY!
chirp
YEAR 2, CLASS 1 VERSUS YEAR 1, CLASS 9.
FIRST ROUND, F LEAGUE.
tweet
BEGIN!
LET'S GO!
HERE!
STEP
KICK

WAH!
turn
jump
WHOA!
OH,
TAJIMA-KUN'S RUNNING!
dash
sfx twirl
turn
LIKE THIS!
sfx step step
WHAT'S MIHASHI DOING THERE BY HIMSELF?
Scream
Stop him!
Stop him!
slide
Sasai kyaa--! Tajima-kun do you best!
sfx whim
bounce
GOT IT!
OTSUKA!

AHH!
sfx dash!
sfx whoosh!
sfx wander wander wander
KOJIMA!
I CAN'T GET INSIDE ...
UUH,
Caption Defend the goal!
sfx rustle rustle
THREE METERS, THREE METERS!
HHH
sfx crowd
sfx squeeze squeeze
sfx crowd

sfx: trample trample
THREE METERS!
dash!
TAJIMA!
Tajima's field of sight = 140 degrees
sfx: whoosh!
sfx: bounce
sfx: bop!
MIHASHI!
sfx: whack!
sfx: wham!

Caption: Whoa!
float
うわぁ
YES! RIGHT THERE!
GO FOR IT!
28
sfx: fwoosh
sfx: SHOOM!
sfx: whap!

TAJIMA REALLY IS A SUPER-STAR.
slap
GOAL!
tweeeet
All right!
SFX step step
HM?
Caption Way to go Tajima!
ONE MORE TIME, THREE METERS!
YEAH!
Y-
I BET WE CAN GET ONE MORE POINT OFF 'EM!
THAT WAS THE PERFECT SPOT, MIHASHI!
Tajima-kun
You're awesome!
slap
Let's go!
Okay!
MI-HASHI ...
AS SOMEONE WITH AN OLDER BROTHER, I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

TIME TO EAT!
ROLLING
LOOKS GOOD!
LOOKS GOOD!
Caption Time to eat!
sfx chirp chirp
sfx buzz buzz buzz
I PLAY SOCCER IN WINTER.
IS THERE ANY SPORT YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT, TAJIMA?
munch
AAH, I GET IT.
IN THE OFF-SEASON
sfx (Tajima) clatter
sfx (girls) Eep!
SHINOOKA!
I played some soccer in Junior High.
THERE'RE NO OTHER PEOPLE AROUND! WAY!
YOU WANT ME TO CALL HIM OVER?
peel

HUH?
UM
AHA-HAHA...
dash
?
WHAT'S UP?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
SEE YOU LATER!
BYE
HMPH.
YOU KNOW,
sfx (Mihasi) munch munch chew chew
THERE WERE TWO OTHER GIRLS BEHIND HER
REALLY?
AFTER WINNING A COUPLE OF TIMES, THE NEWSPAPERS MIGHT COME ASKING ABOUT THE TEAM.

YEAH, BECAUSE YOU DEFEATED TOSEI EVEN WITH ONLY TEN PEOPLE ON THE TEAM, AND YOU'RE ONLY FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS.
JUST THAT IS NEWSWORTHY ENOUGH, YOU KNOW.
munch munch
Whoa! Are you serious?
Ohh!

NAH, IT'LL BE YOUR COACH, WON'T IT?

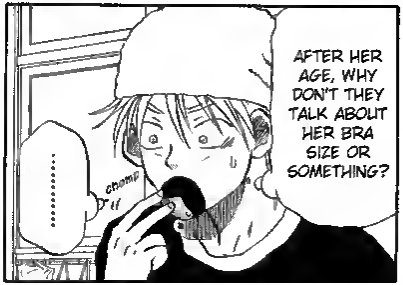
RIGHT?
munch
munch
BUT AFTER TWO MORE WINS, YOU'LL BE IN THE BEST 16.
THEY PROBABLY CAN'T COVER EVERY SCHOOL THAT'S PARTICIPATING.

SHOULDN'T IT BE HANAI'S PHOTO?
MAYBE IT'LL BE ME OR MIHASHI
I WONDER WHOSE PHOTO THEY'LL USE
Wha!

COACH?!
Pumm
twitch

I MEAN,
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS?
LIKE, HOW OLD IS SHE?
IF I WAS THE REPORTER, THE FIRST THING I'D ASK IS "WHAT ARE YOU?"
THAT'S WHAT I'D WANT TO KNOW.
AND WHERE'D SHE LEARN TO HIT A FLY LIKE THAT?!
AND WHAT'S HER GIVEN NAME?
MOMOE!
THAT'S HER LAST NAME!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
HOW LONG WAS THAT MEETING AFTER THE LAST ONE WE WATCHED?
AN HOUR OR SO
Snap
Fold Fold
IT WAS OVER 50 MINUTES FOR SURE
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?
Am I weird for thinking about that?
12:10.
Click
Rattle
Thump

SFX Snoooore



sfx buzz buzz, chirp chirp, chatter chatter, ring ring, buzz buzz

Yes, ma'am!
WE'LL GO SIT BY THE THIRD BASE LINE.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S FULL BEHIND THE HOME PLATE.

AS I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW,
TAJIMA-KUN'S RIGHT HAND WON'T BE TOTALLY HEALED IN A WEEK.
BUT DURING THE WEEK, WE'LL BE PLAYING THE WINNER OF THIS GAME.
THAT'S NOT IN TIME FOR THE THIRD ROUND.
FOR THAT GAME,
I'M TAKING TAJIMA-KUN OFF OF THIRD AND MOVING HIM FROM BATTING FOURTH.

I'M FINE! REALLY, I CAN DO IT!!
WHA-A--A-AT!
サッ
sfx freeze
EEP!
sfx grab
Eeeeeeeek!
sfx grind grind
INJURED PEOPLE DON'T GET TO COMPLAIN!
shake
shake
shake

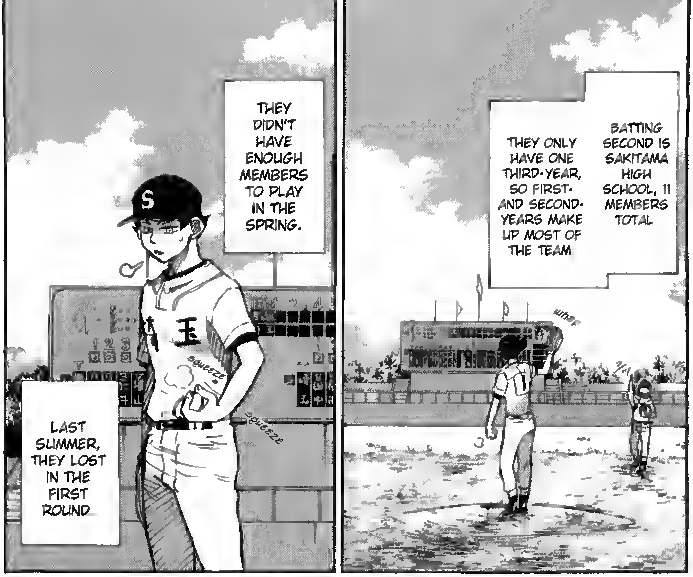
EVERYONE GATHER 'ROUND!
Shift
Bleh
Yes, ma'am!
I'M ANNOUNC-ING THE LINEUP FOR THE THIRD ROUND,
MEME
SO WATCH THIS GAME WITH THAT MINDSET!
#1, FIRST BASE,
TAJI-MA -KUN.
UUH
YE. .
YES'M

AND THE LEADOFF HITTER GETS THE MOST AT-BATS.
TO A PITCHER LIKE MIHASHI WHO NEEDS THOSE BALLS CAUGHT,
LEFT-HANDED HITTERS HIT TOWARDS FIRST MORE, SO FAST BALLS COME THAT WAY.
IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
AND GETTING STEALS WHILE LEADING OFF!
IT'S DIFFICULT BUT MORE FUN!
#1, FIRST BASE, TAJIMA-KUN!
OKAY!
SHE'S GOOD...
TOO GOOD!
#2, SECOND BASE, SAKAEGUCHI-KUN.
YES, MA'AM!
NOT CHANGING MEANS I'M VALUED IN THAT POSITION, RIGHT?
#3, THIRD BASE, IZUMI-KUN.
YES'M.
I'M #3!

YES, MA'AM!
badump
WHOA, THE CLEANUP SPOT...
CENTER FIELD, HANAI-KUN.
#4 IS...
SCORE LOTS OF RUNS!
#6, CATCHER, ABE-KUN.
#5, SHORTSTOP, SUYAMA-KUN.
SHE'S NOT AS WORRIED ABOUT THE LEAD THIS TIME.
YES'M.
YES, MA'AM
Y-
#9, PITCHER, MIHASHI-KUN.
YES, MA'AM!
#8, LEFT FIELD, MIZUTANI-KUN.
#7, RIGHT FIELD, OKI-KUN.
YES, MA'AM!
YES'M.
ABE PUSHED ME BACK IN THE LINEUP!

YES!!
WATCH BOTH THE PITCHES AND BATTING WITH THAT IN MIND!!
THAT'S IT!

IWATSUKI -NISHI HIGH BATS FIRST
A PREFECTURAL SCHOOL THAT HAS MORE THAN 60 MEMBERS EVERY YEAR
IN SPRING, THEY LOST THE FIRST ROUND LAST SUMMER, IN THE THIRD.
THIS IS A SCHOOL THAT'S GROWN STRONGER OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS
NISHI
7


THEY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS TO PLAY IN THE SPRING.
LAST SUMMER, THEY LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND.
BATTING SECOND IS SAKITAMA HIGH SCHOOL, 11 MEMBERS TOTAL.
THEY ONLY HAVE ONE THIRD-YEAR, SO FIRST- AND SECOND-YEARS MAKE UP MOST OF THE TEAM.
squeeze
squeeze
uhm...

THIS IS THE FIRST GAME OF THE SUMMER FOR IWATSUKI-NISH!
WHEN YOU HEAR THAT, IT SEEMS IWATSUKI-NISH! IS BETTER, BUT
OH! I KNOW!
Sorry! Was it heavy?
thwip
thump
thump

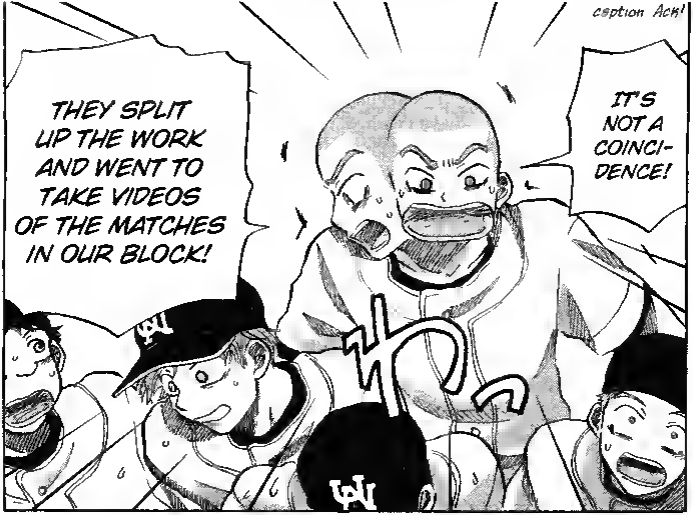
Batting Average
Batting Average
blah
blah
blah
LIKE THAT!
I SAW THE BASEBALL NEWS AT MIHASHI'S HOUSE!
SAKITAMA'S FIRST ROUND WAS A REALLY CLOSE GAME!
UH?!
sfx grab
HOW YOU CAN REMEMBER THAT SCORE, THAT IS!
IT'S AMAZ-ING
NO
IT'S NOT AMAZ-ING?
EH
HANA! TAJIMA'S REALLY AMAZING!
W-
W-
chirp chirp
I WATCHED THE NEWS TWICE
WHAT'S HE DOING DIFFER-ENTLY!?
YOU CAN'T REMEMBER OTHER THINGS?
The score's right!
IT'S NOT THAT MUCH TO KNOW!
WE MIGHT BE PLAYING THEM?
BUT

WELL, ANYWAY,
IWATSUKI-NISHI IS, IN REALITY, THE BETTER TEAM,
BUT SAKITAMA STILL HAS THE MOMEN-TUM FROM THEIR LAST GAME.
WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?
WHICH ONE ...?
grip
I HAVE TO WATCH CLOSELY.
I'M PITCHING NEXT TIME, TOO...
cheer wwwwww
THE ONE WHO WINS
IS OUR NEXT OPPO-NENT!

AND ...
AH! MRS HANA!
COACH MOMOE!
paaa
SORRY I COULDN'T ATTEND THE FIRST ROUND!
HELLO! I'M MRS. ABE
puaaa
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING IN A SECOND.
LET'S GO BEHIND THE BACK NET!
THANKS FOR SUPPORT-ING US!
MRS. ABE! NICE TO MEET YOU!
jump
paaa

Sfx: pupupupo pupupupupo
LOOK AFTER EVERYONE FOR A BIT, OKAY?
HANAI-KUN!
Pooo

THERE AREN'T MANY IN JR. HIGH SO...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU SAW YOUR YOUNGER SON'S GAME?
BYE THEN, CAPTAIN!
GOT IT!
pa
pa
pa
pa
ARGH!
IS THAT YOUR MOM, ABE?
JUST BE QUIET AND GO!
YEAH.
pe
REALLY? WAS THERE A GOOD MATCH GOING?
MY PARENTS WENT TO HATSUKARI STADIUM TOGETHER YESTERDAY.
SHE CAME TO WATCH, TOO?
SHE REALLY LIKES BASEBALL, HUH?
WELL, I ALREADY KNEW HANAI'S MOM DOES
HMM?
YEAH, SURE.
pa
pa
pe
pa
OH!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! MINE SAID THEY WERE GOING THERE, TOO!
MINE WENT TO OMIYA TO WATCH THE GAME!
fumi
fumi
....


caption Ach!
IT'S NOT A COINCI-DENCE!
THEY SPLIT UP THE WORK AND WENT TO TAKE VIDEOS OF THE MATCHES IN OUR BLOCK!

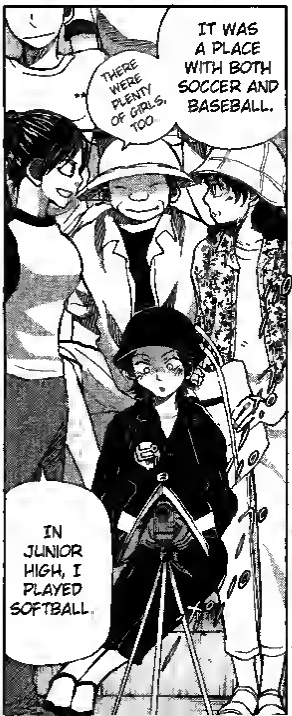
YOU DON'T HAFTA YELL!
WHY'RE YOU SO MAD?
pant
pant
pa pa ra pa pa ra
MORE LIKE.. WHY DO YOU KNOW, HANAI?
WHY DOESN'T ANYONE KNOW ABOUT THE VIDEOS?
WHY SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT IT?
plop
It's hot
WHAT?!
DON'T YOUR PARENTS TALK ABOUT IT?

NO, I DON'T!
roar
SO IT'S OKAY IF WE ONLY PUSH THE SWITCH WHILE WE'RE FILMING, RIGHT?
WOW, HANA!...
YOU SURE GET ALONG WITH YOUR PARENTS.
sfx papapara papapapa papapapapa
SO STAY HYDRATED, REPLENISH SALT
Tada!
AND THE SUN IS PRETTY INTENSE HERE,
RIGHT !
click
Stick sugar, iced coffee and salted cucumbers
NOT TO GET SUN-STROKE!
Tada!
AND BE CARE-FUL
flap
flap
cool
cool
caption Fan and cold towels

WE'RE OLD PROS AT WATCHING GAMES!
WE'RE HERE EVERY SEASON!
I SEE!
BOTH OF YOU STARTED THEM PLAYING IN GRADE SCHOOL, SO OF COURSE!
fump
cold

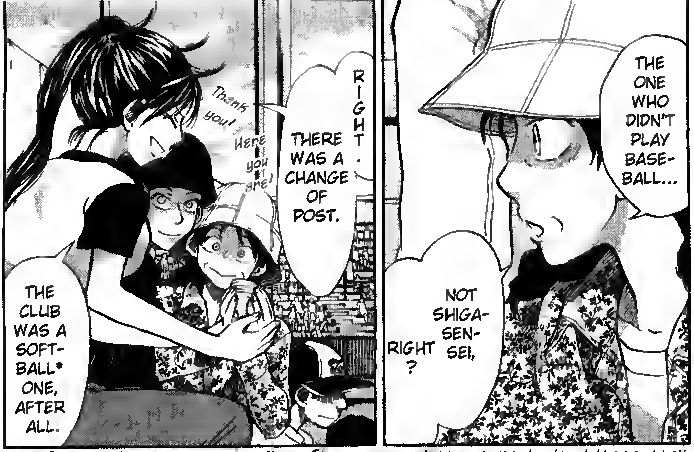
sfx papapapepo

sfx: pepapopa pepapou

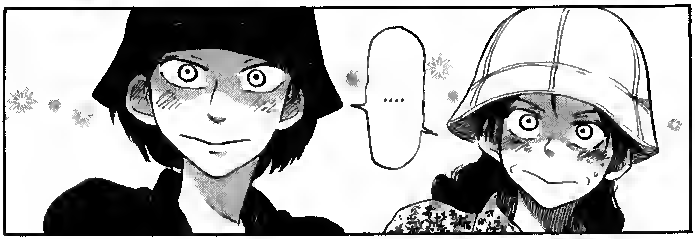


NO,
I WAS THE MANAGER OF THE BASEBALL TEAM.
YOUR HIGH SCHOOL WAS, NISHIURA, YES?
DID YOU PLAY SOFTBALL THERE, TOO?
SFX: PAPAPA PEPAPO
WELL, MY SON WAS SAYING
THAT'S NICE!
IT'D BE STRANGE IF I SAID IT WAS A WASTE, BUT...
OOH, THE MANAGER!
TRANS NOTE: THE KNOCK A POP FLY THAT'S HIT AS A WARM UP FOR THE PLAYER TO CATCH BEFORE A MEE
AND HE WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU HAD PRACTICED.
THAT YOU WERE VERY GOOD AT THE KNOCK,

HEHE, THANK YOU!
AM I?
YOU ARE!
sfx pas pa pa!
I DID THE KNOCK DURING HIGH SCHOOL.
MANAGERS DID THE KNOCK AS WELL, THEN?
badump
rip
... UM, SO YOU WEREN'T A JUST A REGULAR "MANAGER GIRL," SO TO SPEAK,
BUT A MANAGER THAT HELPED WITH THE ACTUAL PRACTICE?
OH, IT WASN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL.
sfx parapa parapapara pa!
Momoka takes one creamer in her coffee
THE ADVISING TEACHER HAD NEVER PLAYED BASEBALL,
AND THERE WEREN'T MANY MEMBERS IN THE CLUB.
I DID THE KNOCK, PITCHED, AND BATTED EVERY DAY.


THE ONE WHO DIDN'T PLAY BASE-BALL...
NOT SHIGA-SEN-SEI, RIGHT ?
RIGHT. THERE WAS A CHANGE OF POST.
Thank you!
Here you are!
THE CLUB WAS A SOFT-BALL* ONE, AFTER ALL.

*Note: This is different than girls' softball. It's basically still baseball but without the hard ball.

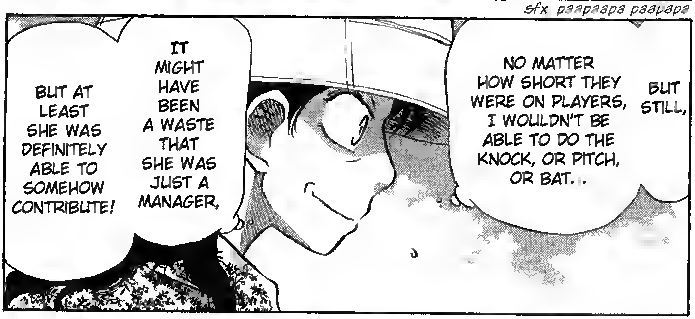


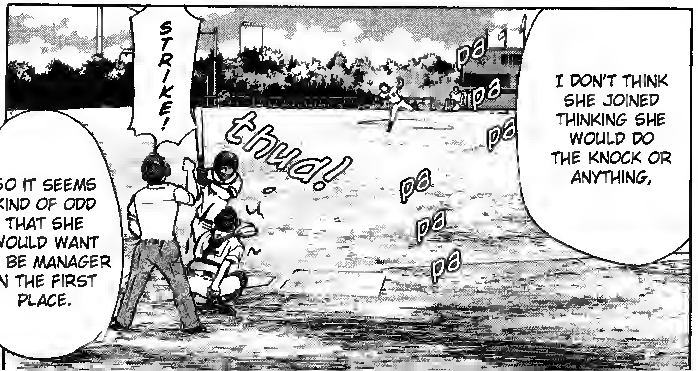
sfx paapaapa paapapa

sfx paa pe pii pe paa pe pa po

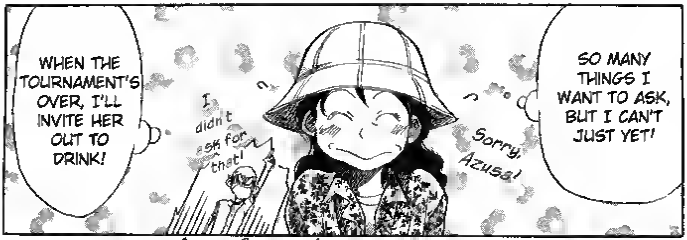
I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS AGO EVERYTHING SHE SAID HAPPENED...
SHOULD WE DRINK TOO?
SURE!
SHE SAID THAT THE ADVISOR HAD ALREADY CHANGED POSITIONS...
I WONDER IF SHIGA-SENSEI WAS AT NISHIURA DURING THAT TIME...

sfx pappapa papapa


NO MATTER HOW SHORT THEY WERE ON PLAYERS, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THE KNOCK, OR PITCH, OR BAT...
BUT STILL,
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A WASTE THAT SHE WAS JUST A MANAGER,
BUT AT LEAST SHE WAS DEFINITELY ABLE TO SOMEHOW CONTRIBUTE!


I DON'T THINK SHE JOINED THINKING SHE WOULD DO THE KNOCK OR ANYTHING,
STRIKE!
thud!
SO IT SEEMS KIND OF ODD THAT SHE WOULD WANT TO BE MANAGER IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I WONDER WHY NONE OF HER OLD TEAMMATES HAVE COME AROUND?
BUT...
twist
IF SHE WANTED TO REVIVE THE BASEBALL CLUB, IT MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY FUN BACK THEN,
pa pa pa
AH
THANK YOU!
HERE
I DON'T SEE WHY THEY HAVEN'T COME TO VISIT HER.
pa pa pe
EVEN THOUGH THE CLUB ENDED,
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED
TO MOMOE-SAN'S TEAM-MATES...?


WHEN THE TOURNAMENT'S OVER, I'LL INVITE HER OUT TO DRINK!
I didn't ask for that!
Sorry, Azusa!
SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO ASK, BUT I CAN'T JUST YET!

Caption: Imagining Azusa's reaction

sfx swoosh thud

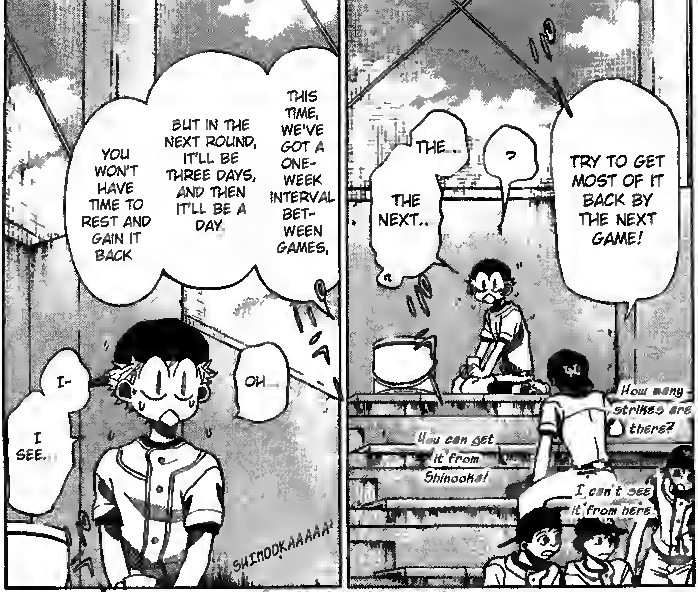
...
HE SURE STANDS OUT.

EVERY-ONE ELSE IS IN SECOND YEAR.
OH.
THE CATCHER'S ONLY IN FIRST YEAR.

HEY
... IS THAT THE CATCH-ER?

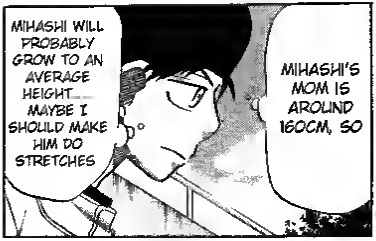
HE GOT A .100 IN THE FIRST ROUND!
BAM!
GULP
GULP

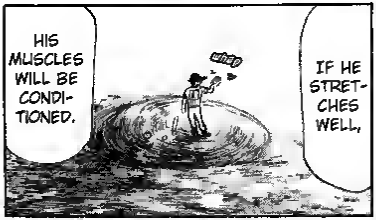
.100...
HOW MANY AT-BATS? THEY HAD EXTRA INNINGS, RIGHT?
sfx Wooooow!
THE WINNING RUN WAS ALSO HIS 6-6.
sfx pas paaa paaa paaa paaa
HAVE YOU MEASURED YOUR WEIGHT TODAY?
gasp
nod
HOW MANY KILOS ARE YOU AT NOW?
sfx pa paa pa paa
... UHMM.
foggy
foggy
FIF... TY....
Hmmm
Because it's the first thing he does in the morning, he can't remember it.
nod
IT WENT BACK, DIDN'T IT?!
@ullet MIHASHI!!


TRY TO GET MOST OF IT BACK BY THE NEXT GAME!
THE..
?
THE NEXT..
How many strikes are there?
How can get it from Shinooka!
I can't see it from here.
THIS TIME, WE'VE GOT A ONE-WEEK INTERVAL BET-WEEN GAMES.
BUT IN THE NEXT ROUND, IT'LL BE THREE DAYS, AND THEN IT'LL BE A DAY.
YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO REST AND GAIN IT BACK
OH
I-
I SEE.
SHINOOKAAAAA!
sfx pee pare pare pa pepa

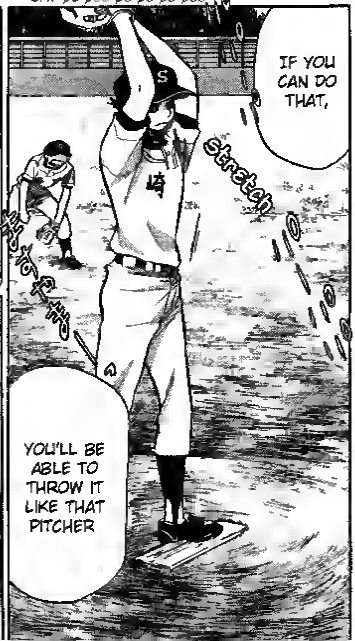
THERE'S PRACTICE EVERYDAY, AND IT'S ALWAYS QUITE IN-TENSE.
THE GAMES ARE EVEN MORE SO, THOUGH.
I'LL DRINK A LOT. AND EAT A LOT.
IF HE LOSES THREE KILOS DURING THE GAMES, HE'LL ALSO LOSE HIS CONTROL.
BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SAY IT, HE'S NOT WORRIED ABOUT IT.
sfx ,perapara

IT'S POINTLESS IF WE WIN ONLY ONE GAME.
burp
plop
TO GET TO THE TOP WITH MIHASHI,
I HAVE TO THINK OF AN EASIER WAY TO WIN!
sfx: clank!
cheers Furusawa!
BE MORE CAREFUL BEFORE YOU'VE EATEN!
IF YOU DRINK TOO MUCH, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR APPETITE.
sfx: para pas pea ras
UHMM ...
move
move
HEIGHT ...
I DUNNO ...
Hmm
Hmm
MAYBE AROUND THIS TALL...
YOUR DAD'S AROUND WHAT HEIGHT?
AND THEN THIS...

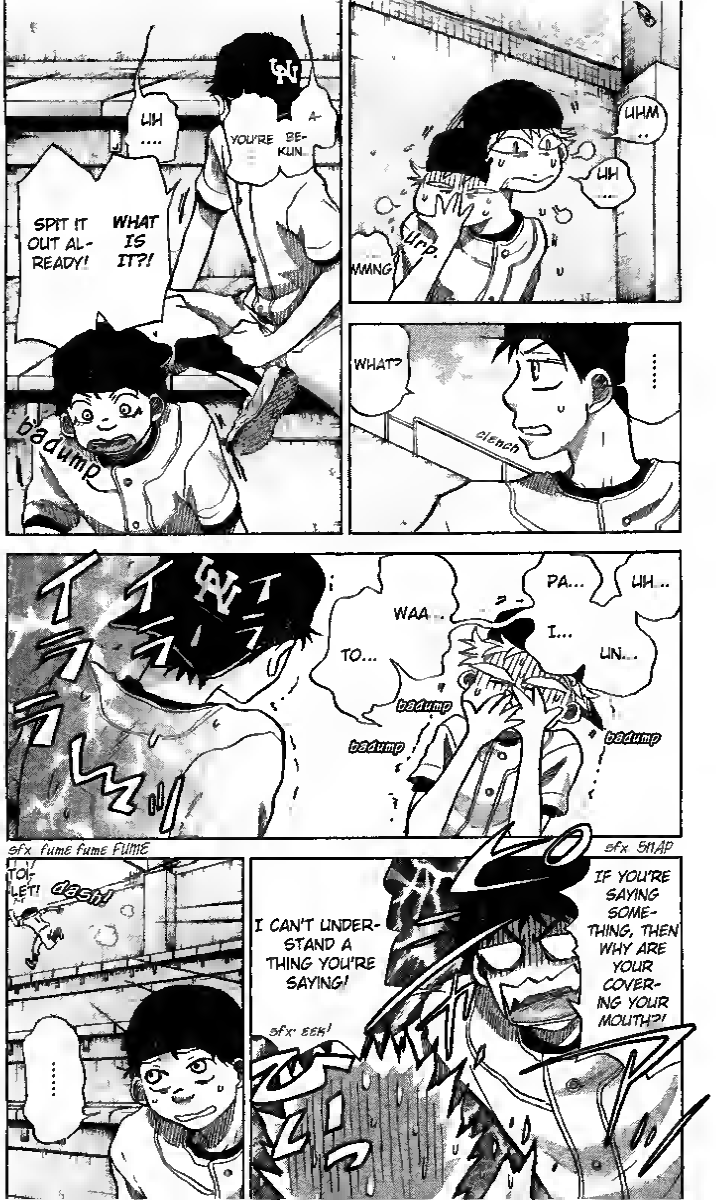




sfx: pa paa pa pa pa paa



cheers: Mesuyama


UH ....
YOU'RE
A-
BE-
KUN.
SPIT IT OUT AL-READY!
WHAT IS IT?!
badump
UHM ...
UH ...
Urrp.
MMNG
WHAT?
clench
PA...
UH..
WAA...
I...
UN...
TO...
badump
badump
badump
SFX fume fume FUME
SFX SMAP
TOI-LET!
dash!
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND A THING YOU'RE SAYING!
IF YOU'RE SAYING SOME-THING, THEN WHY ARE YOUR COVER-ING YOUR MOUTH?!
SFX eek!

cheers: Ko-ba-y, -shi!
HE JUST RAN
HE STILL REMEMBERS
DAMN
I STILL HAVEN'T CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT IT, BUT...
I DID SAY AT THE CAMP THAT HE DOESN'T NEED TO HAVE SPEED AT ALL
WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT BOOSTING THE PITCHES' STRENGTH?
sfx boom boom
sfx papapapa pepapapa
HOW LONG CAN HE GO WITH JUST HIS CONTROL AND THE CHANGE-UPS?
IF HE WANTS TO PITCH A HIGH-SPEED FASTBALL,
I THINK IT'D BE NICE IF HE COULD!

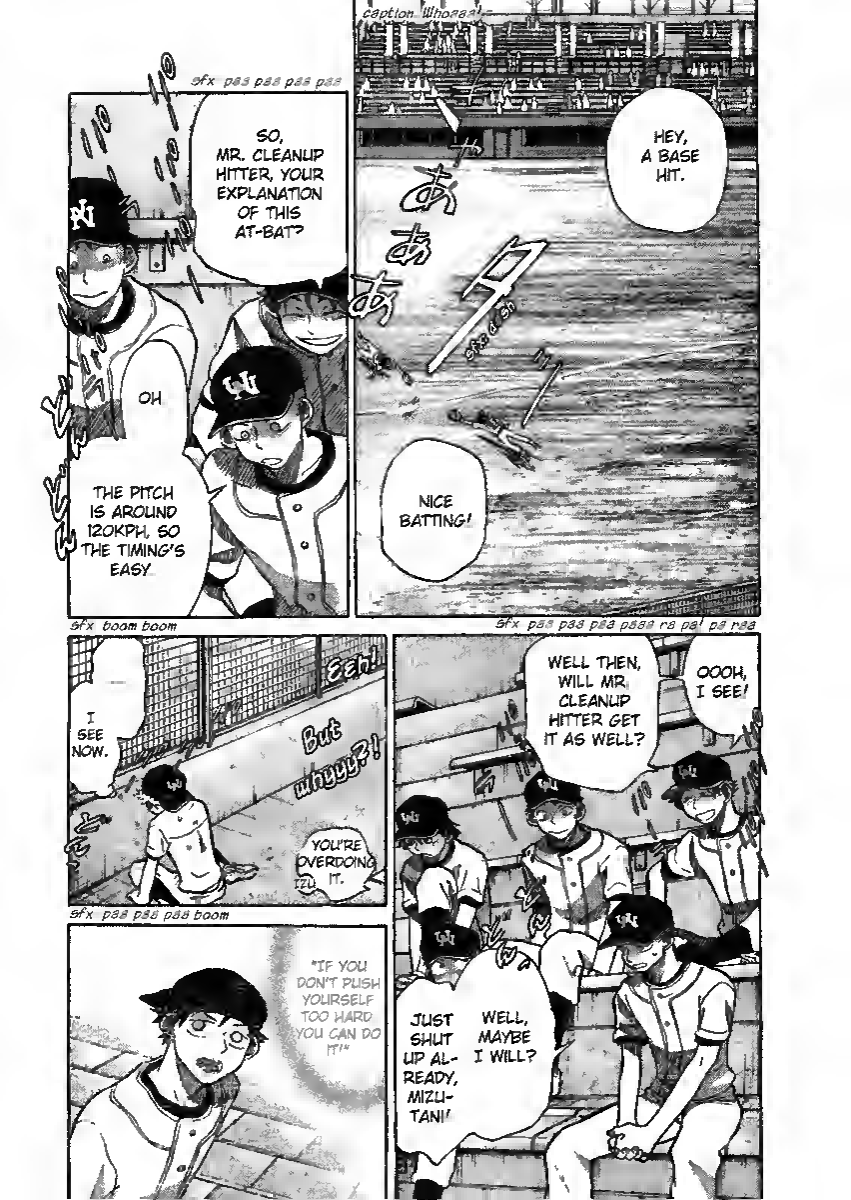
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THAT "STRAIGHT PITCH" OF HIS AND THE NINE-AREA STRIKE ZONE, EITHER
BUT
I HAVE TO PROCEED
WITH EXTREME CAUTION HERE!

sfx. pera para pa rara

sfx. para para pa ra ra paa ra ra

IT'S ALL RIGHT IF IT'S IN-GAME!
..?
BUT WHEN YOU'RE JUST TALKING...
WHAT STARTLED YOU?
?
sfx parat para pa rara
WELL...
IT WAS YOUR VOICE.
EVEN IF IT'S A LAUGH
WHEN IT'S SO LOUD, I GET STAR-TLED...
AND I FEEL A LITTLE FRIGHT-ENED...
AHH, I KIND OF SOUND LIKE A WIMP...
EVEN MY LAUGH...?
MIHASHI'S PROBABLY THE SAME.
WHEN ABE RAISES HIS VOICE, HE GETS SCARED RIGHT AWAY,
AND
I WANT TO SAY SOME-THING BUT I CAN'T!
HE MIGHT GET MAD

I THOUGHT THAT ABE-KUN
ME TO THROW ANY HIGH-SPEED PITCHES
DIDN'T EXPECT
STRIKE!
sfx: thud!
sfx: swoosh
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO THROW IT ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT PITCHER.
KEEP
HEH...
UHM...
sfx: bam!
sfx: crack!


caption: Whoosh
HEY, A BASE HIT.
sfx: d sh
NICE BATTING!
sfx: pas pas pas pas
SO, MR. CLEANUP HITTER, YOUR EXPLANATION OF THIS AT-BAT?
OH
THE PITCH IS AROUND 120KPH, SO THE TIMING'S EASY.
sfx: boom boom
sfx: pas pas pas pass ra pa! pa raa
OOOH, I SEE!
WELL THEN, WILL MR. CLEANUP HITTER GET IT AS WELL?
WELL, MAYBE I WILL?
JUST SHUT UP ALREADY, MIZUTANI!
Eeh!
But whyy?!
I SEE NOW.
YOU'RE OVERDOING IZU IT.
sfx: pas pas pas boom
"IF YOU DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD YOU CAN DO IT!"

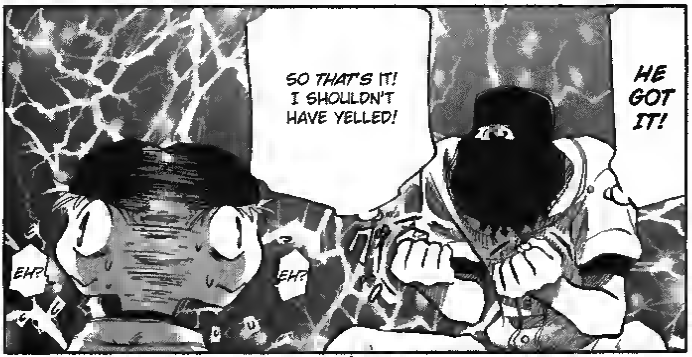
SO IF I
DID PUSH MYSELF ...
sfx: whoosh
sfx: pa para pa para
... NO,
I HAVE TO!
IF DON'T, I...!
sfx: badump
?!
WHERE WERE YOU REALLY LOOKING JUST NOW?

IT WASN'T THE PITCH-ER.
twitch
RIGHT NOW...
I...
clamp
WHY ARE YOU...
... EVEN TRYING TO LIE?
He's not pressing down
sfx shake shake
DID YOU SEE THE DATA THAT SHINOOKA GOT?
Shff
.....
YES.
badump
badump
badump
THE PART ABOUT THE BATTERS
TOOK A REALLY LONG TIME TO MAKE.
g. sp.

THE DATA AND THE VIDEOS WILL HELP, BUT
Y-YEAH
[music: pa para pi pi ri pi para]
THE REASON SHE WENT THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE
YOU NEED TO SEE IT IN PERSON TODAY.
IS BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO HELP US WIN.
...
glance
...
glance
glance
WHERE DO YOU NEED TO BE LOOKING?
JUST WAIT IT OUT.
I'LL STAY CALM.
I WON'T YELL.
So I can't see him squirm.
I'll just shut my eyes
SFX: badump

grin
!!
WAIT
THE BATTER?
gasp
TH-
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE BATTER!
I RAISED MY VOICE AGAIN.
WHOOPS
shake
shake
shake

SPEAK IN A NORMAL VOICE...
THE PITCHER DOESN'T MATTER.
KEEP WATCHING THE BATTERS!
DO YOU GET IT?
YEAH!
I-
I GET IT!


HE GOT IT!
SO THAT'S IT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE YELLED!
EH?
EH?

sfx clench

BOTTOM OF THE SECOND INNING, SAKITAMA HIGH SCHOOL'S AT BAT.
TEAM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 R H E
岩槻西 0 0
0 2 1
埼玉 1

*Note: Wakou-Minami is the team Sakitama defeated previously.

sfx crack
IT'S OUTTA THERE!
sfx zoom

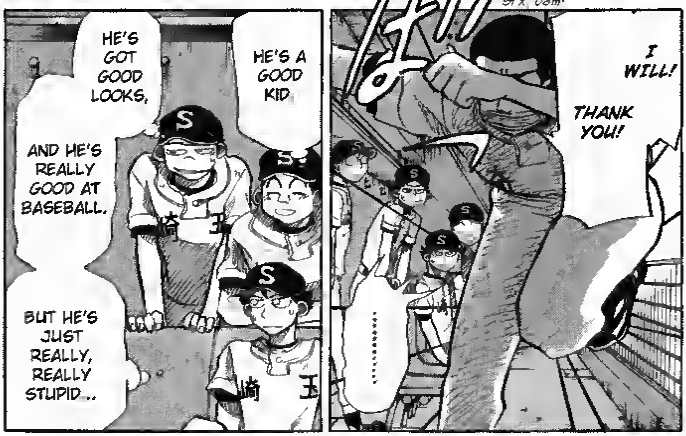
sfx: slide
sfx: whap!
WOW, THAT WAS CLOSE.
OUT!
THERE GOES HIS .100 AVERAGE.
crowd cheering

HE LOST HIS STREAK OF ON-BASE HITS, BUT HE STILL HASN'T STRUCK OUT.
HE'S TALL, BUT VERY GOOD AT CONTROLLING THE BAT.
...I'LL STAY QUIET FOR A LITTLE BIT
IT FLEW FAST.
HE COULDN'T HIT IT TO THE RIGHT?
music pa pa pa pa pa pa
cheer RYOICHI!
NICE ONE, SHORTSTOP!
NICE ONE, ME!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE PART OF THAT BAD RECORD!
music pe po pa po
sfx slide
I HIT INTO AN OUT.
SORRY ...
BATTING SIXTH, CENTER FIELDER, KAMIMURA-KUN.
JERSEY #8.

GEEP!
... I JUST SOUNDED OVERCONFIDENT, DIDN'T I?!
THAT'S WRONG! I WASN'T TALKING BACK!
EH,
IF YOU GET STRAIGHT OUTS THIS GAME, YOUR AVERAGE WILL BE AT .050!
IT'D BE TOTALLY WEIRD IF YOU DIDN'T GET AN OUT SOONER OR LATER, DAICHI
Ha Ha Ha
I DON'T THINK ALL OUTS IS...
music pe pa po
music pa papaa
cheer: YUICHI!

I'M SORRY, IT SOUNDED LIKE IT!
I'M NOT S'POSED TO SOUND LIKE I'M BRAGGING!
IF I LOSE FOCUS IT MIGHT HAPPEN!
UH, I KNOW THAT, BUT....

I WANT TO WASH MYSELF CLEAN OF GUILT!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
UH, MAYBE YOU SHOULD WASH YOUR FACE FIRST.


sfx: bam!
I WILL!
THANK YOU!
.....
HE'S A GOOD KID.
HE'S GOT GOOD LOOKS,
AND HE'S REALLY GOOD AT BASEBALL.
BUT HE'S JUST REALLY, REALLY STUPID...

DAICHI IS REALLY AMAZING,
BUT I THINK THIS IS AS FAR AS WE'RE GETTING.
TO WIN JUST ONCE IN MY LAST YEAR...
IT'S ENOUGH OF A REWARD FOR CONTINUING THE CLUB ON MY OWN.

sfx crack
AFTER THE SAKITAMA CAPTAIN WAS OFF FEELING FULFILLED,
THE GAME BECAME VERY INTENSE
Daichi Ahh! I'm all cleaned up now!
IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOU.
Get your gear on!
THANK YOU, DAICHI..
sniff
sfx slide
sfx whap
sfx fwoosh
Ta-i-san!
Get a-hit!

sfx: crack
music: pa pa pa para pa para boom boom
crowd: kyaaaaa!
WHAT A MESS THEY GOT INTO!
ping!
WHOAAAA!
THEY CAUGHT UP AT THE END OF THE NINTH!
SAKI-TAMA'S GOING INTO EXTRA INNINGS AGAIN?

WHETHER IT'S IN DEFENSE OR OFFENSE, WE'LL FIND THEIR WEAKNESS.
SFX: music and drums
SAKITAMA'S PITCHER IS STILL FINDING HIS FOOTING AND IS JUST SOMEHOW HANGING ON RIGHT NOW.
UP TO NOW, THE POINT SPREAD MAKES BOTH OF THEM LOOK ABOUT EVEN,
THOUGH BASED ON POWER, IWATSUKI-NISH! SHOULD BE AHEAD.
SFX: don don (drums)
SFX: pa pa pa para para pa para (music)
flick
tuna
OUT!
slide
4

HE'S TALL, AND HE'S GOT A GOOD SENSE FOR THE GAME.
BUT YOU CAN'T PLAY BASEBALL BY YOURSELF!
SEE, THAT WAS A WASTE!
NEXT UP WOULD HAVE BEEN SAKURA-KUN!
STILL, SAKURA-KUN REALLY IS A GOOD PLAYER.
SHWIP SHWIP
team yeahhh!
KEEP ON FIGHTING 'TIL THE LAST PITCH!
WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR! LET'S WIN IT!
おおおおお!

E-X-T-RA IN-N-I--N-GS!
WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?
IWA-NISHI ARE THE ONES WHO ARE GLAD. THEY DIDN'T GET WALKED OFF
click
click

HEAAAH!!
Wha?!

I JUST WANT TO BE IN THE STADIUM FOR AS LONG AS I CAN!
EHEHE
HUH?!

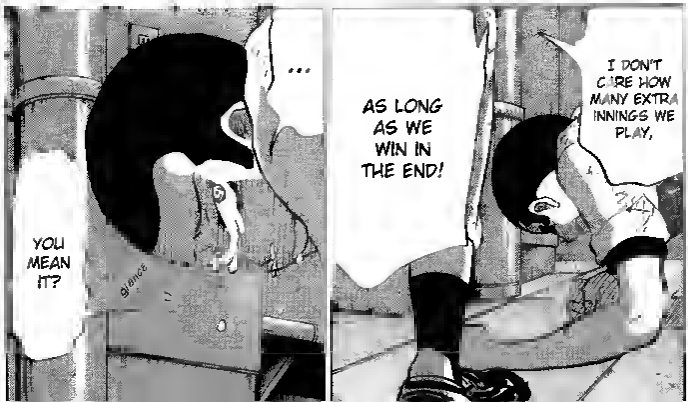
Oh.

I WAS HOPING IT'D BE OVER IN NINE INNINGS.
I'M STILL TIRED FROM THE FIRST ROUND,
PHEW
AND EXTRA INNINGS WEAR MY SHOULDER OUT.

...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?! WHAT KIND OF SELFISH PERSON HAVE I BECOME!

DAIIIII-CHIII!
HEY!
I'M SUCH A BAD PERSON!
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ANY CONSIDERATION FOR OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL!
UMM...
JUST BECAUSE I'M HAVING FUN,

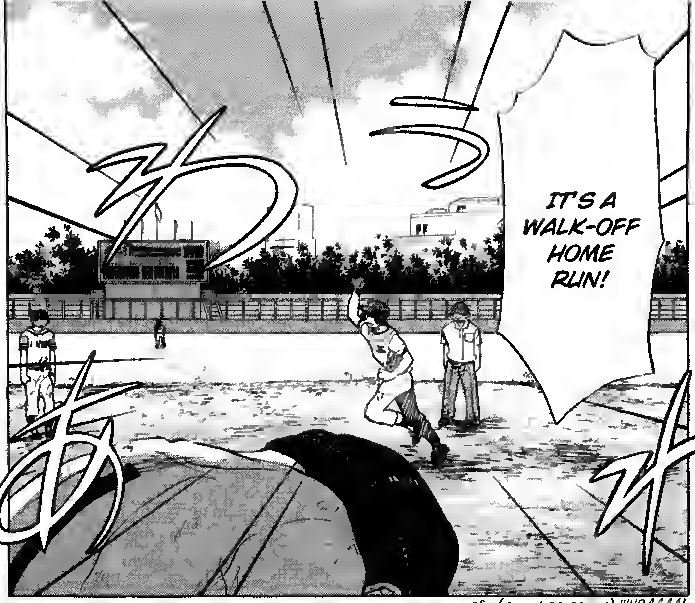
THE TRUTH IS,
I WAS JUST WHINING. IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE A BAD PERSON!


...
YOU MEAN IT?
Silence
AS LONG AS WE WIN IN THE END!
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY EXTRA INNINGS WE PLAY,

YEAH!
SO YOU BETTER GET A HIT!
Pleeeeease, Daichi-kun!
RIGHT!
崎
玉

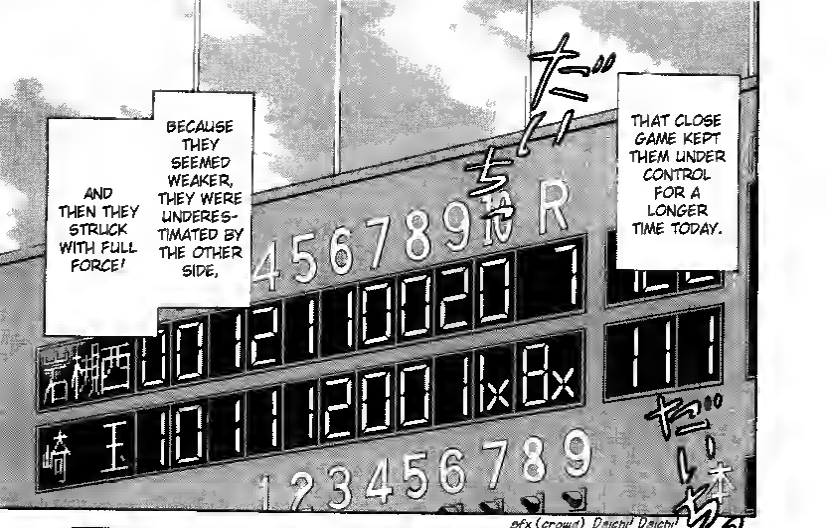
SFX: WHAM!!

IT'S GONE.
WHOA.
あ
あ
あ
あ
guys Whoaaa!
bounce



sfx: (crowd screaming) WHOAAAA!

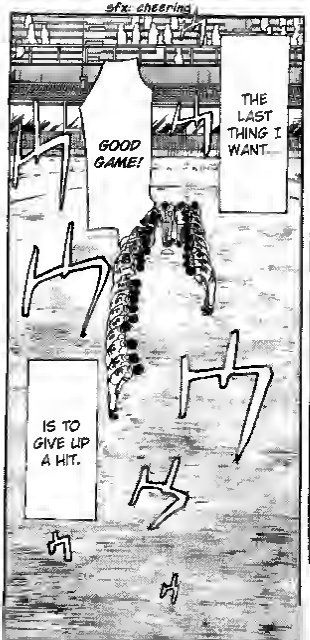
HE GOT IT THERE?!
ON TOP OF THAT, SAKURA-KUN'S SCORE TODAY WAS 4-3!
bonnoc
YOU CAN'T PLAY BASEBALL BY YOURSELF, BUT...
YOU CAN SURE ANCHOR THE TEAM ON YOUR OWN
crowd chants: Daichi! Daichi! Daichi!
ONE BOY LIKE THAT CAN RAISE THE MORALE OF THE WHOLE TEAM ON HIS OWN.

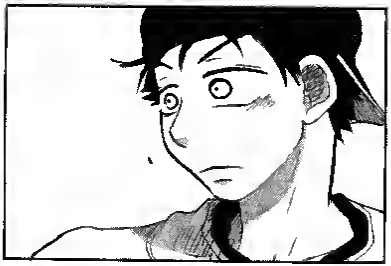

THAT CLOSE GAME KEPT THEM UNDER CONTROL FOR A LONGER TIME TODAY.
BECAUSE THEY SEEMED WEAKER, THEY WERE UNDERESTIMATED BY THE OTHER SIDE,
AND THEN THEY STRUCK WITH FULL FORCE!
R
若桃西 0 0 1 2 1 1 0 0 2 0 7
崎玉 1 0 1 1 1 2 0 0 1 x 8 x
1 1 1
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
sfx (crowd) Daichi! Daichi!

GOOD SHOW.
Winning the game in extra innings with an out-of-the-park home run.
YEAH.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A BETTER HITTER THAN I AM,
AND THAT GUY'S A FIRST-YEAR, TOO!
WHAT A HIT!
IF WE WIN THE GAME, I'LL HAVE BEATEN HIM!
sfx (cheers) Woosah!
sfx (crowd) Daichi! Daichi!

SO AWE-SOME
THERE ARE SO MANY
AMAZING PEOPLE ...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT!
SFX: CHEERING
ALL WE GOTTA DO IS KEEP THAT GUY DOWN!
SFX: CHEERING
AS FAR AS BATTERS GO, THEY'VE ONLY GOT THAT ONE GUY.
IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, WE CAN JUST WALK HIM TO MAKE SURE WE GET THE WIN!
!
ARE YOU OPPOSED TO INTENTIONALLY WALKING SOMEBODY?
NO,
SHAKE
ABSO-LUTELY
NOT!
SHAKE

WHAT I HATE THE MOST IS...
GIVING UP A HIT!


sfx: cheering
GOOD GAME!
THE LAST THING I WANT
IS TO GIVE UP A HIT.



SO THAT'S HOW IT IS, EH?
HEH
EH
HEH

I DON'T WANT TO...
GIVE UP HITS AND MAKE THE TEAM LOSE!

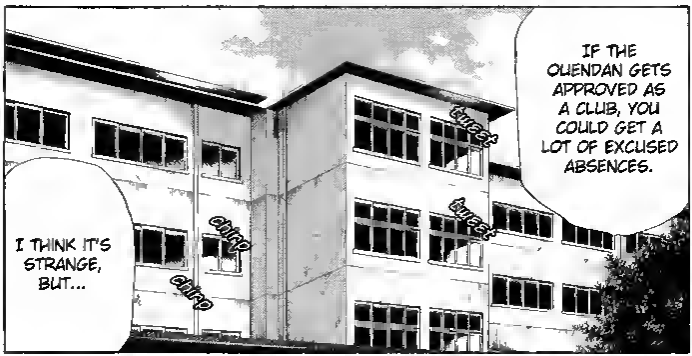
THE THIRD ROUND OPPONENT WILL BE...
SAKITAMA HIGH SCHOOL!
Chapter 17/end

COME JOIN US!!

RECRUITMENT OPEN FOR ALL POSITIONS,
EXPERIENCE APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED.
JAP>ENG TRANSLATORS ESPECIALLY NEEDED.

WE'RE CAPSLOCK FRIENDLY :D

YUP, THAT'S A "NO."
A "NO," RIGHT?
...THAT'S


I THINK IT'S STRANGE, BUT...
chirp
chirp
bumpf
bumpf
IF THE OUENDAN GETS APPROVED AS A CLUB, YOU COULD GET A LOT OF EXCUSED ABSENCES.

Y-
YEAH.
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL IS REALLY STRICT, RIGHT?

chirp chirp
IF YOU SKIP SCHOOL TO GO CHEER
AND SOMEONE COMPLAINS ABOUT IT,
YOU WOULDN'T WANT THE BASEBALL CLUB TO GET IN TROUBLE FOR IT, RIGHT?
tweet tweet
R-
RIGHT.
buzz buzz

Chapter 18 – Round Three

YOU SHOULD GO ON WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THINGS YOU MIGHT REGRET LATER.
I THINK THAT'S WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU GUYS
YES, SIR.
chirp chirp
HA-MA-DA!
YOU GUYS GAVE YOUR 100 PERCENT DURING THE TOSEI GAME!
HUH?
Slump
WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THAT.
THEY SAID THEY DEFINITELY COULDN'T HAVE ENDED IT IF YOU GUYS WEREN'T THERE!
!

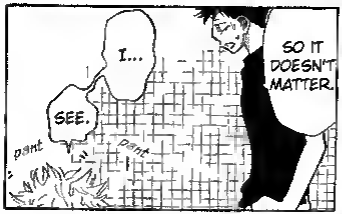
...
HOW WAS IT?
IT WAS A NO, WASN'T IT?
buzz buzz
THANKS, SIR!
buzz buzz buzz
click
I KNEW THAT, BUT...
YEAH.
Ehe

YEAH, FOR THE NEXT ONE WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME IF WE WAIT FOR THEM TO WIN
WE'LL MAKE SOME UNI-FORMS,
OKAY?
chirp
chirp
WHY D'YOU STILL LOOK HAPPY ABOUT IT?
HM?
BUT THE NEXT GAME WILL BE IN SUMMER VACATION, SO WE CAN STILL GO!
THAT'S TOO BAD
UNI-FORM?
CHEER
UNI-FORM?

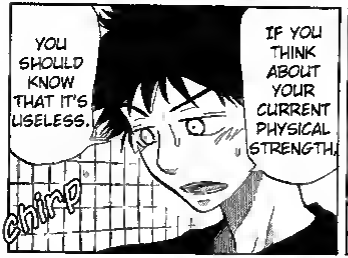
Oh!
YEAH.
WE'RE MAKING MINI-SKIRTS...
BUT DON'T GET EXCITED!
ER... "EXCITED" ...?
sfx: chirp chirp buzz buzz
nishuuuu
go go go
stomp stomp
GAAH!
flap
IT'S SOOO HOT!

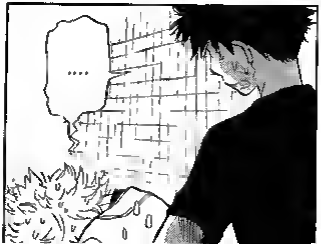
chirp
chirp
WE'LL START THE MEETING IN TEN MINUTES!
Even though it wasn't a very long run!
Damn, that more me out!
chirp
chirp
WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO WASTE!
TAJIMA!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TAKE OFF YOUR BOXERS WHERE PEOPLE CAN SEE YOU!
WHAT?
Grab
Ah!
caption Aw maaan I'm all sweaty! I feel gross!

caption: Aaah this feels great!
chirp chirp
chirp
How many times do I have to tell you?!
But there're mosquitoes in the dugout so I can't take my dick out!
The whole neighborhood can see you!
sfx: splish splish splish splash splish
sfx: BADump
YOU LOOK REALLY BEAT.
WHY DO YOU KEEP TRYING TO HIDE THINGS I CAN TELL RIGHT AWAY?
YOU'RE BREATHING REALLY HARD, THOUGH.
THAT TIRED
I'M NOT
I-
pant
pant
splash
splash
理解不能!
caption: TOTAL MISUNDERSTANDING!
HE...



He washed his hair, too





sfx: ROAR
WHY WOULD YOU TRY THAT AGAIN?!
sfx: SNAP
sfx: GASP! pant pant pant
sfx: grind grind grind grind
W-
Way!
Gimme!
Gimme!
Ash
WOW!
FROM HANAI AND ABE'S BANANAS,
I'VE MADE BANANA PROTEIN SHAKE!
GO CHANGE YOUR UNDER-SHIRT!
point
AH!
OKAY!
WHOAAA! It's so good!
suip
suip

caption: We're counting on you!

おねがいしまーす!
HE'S BECOMING QUITE THE CAPTAIN
GOT IT!
THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE OBSERVED IN THE GAME AND SHARE IT.
FIRST, WHAT TO DO FOR DEFENSE!

IT GOES SO FAR THAT IT'D BE A WASTE TO USE FOR SAC FLIES, EVEN.
THAT GUY WAS AMAZING.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE MY AGE HIT THAT FAR!
ANYWAY, WE NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR THEIR FIFTH HITTER
buzz buzz
chirp chirp
HALF THEIR POINTS DIDN'T INVOLVE THEIR #5, AFTER ALL.
BUT THEIR FIRST TO FOURTH HITTERS ALSO GOT ON BASE A LOT!
AND IT'S NOT JUST THE FIFTH HITTER GUY,
tweet
tweet tweet
Chatter Chatter
The run during the ninth inning was scored by the cleanup too!
Their cleanup runner scored two runs pretty easily.
EVEN WHEN IT WASN'T A CONTEST, THEY STILL WATCHED CLOSELY!
kufufu

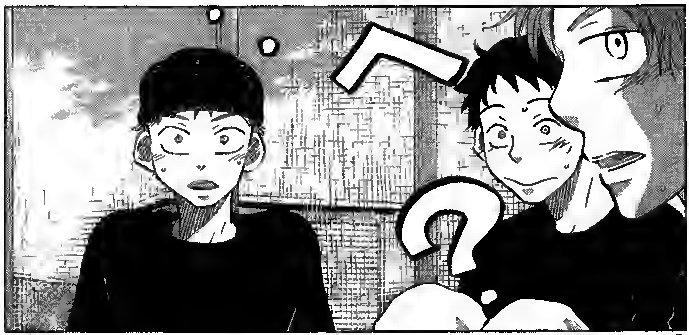
Yeah!
IZUMI, SUYAMA, MIZUTANI!
THE ONLY LEFT-HANDER IS THEIR NINTH HITTER, SO THE PEOPLE IN LEFT FIELD SHOULD BE AWARE.
buzz buzz
HEY...
chirp chirp
SO LET'S PERFECT THE PICKOFF TIMING!
THEY'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT CALLING STEALS,
LET'S GET BACK ON TRACK.
Yeah!
MIHASHI, ABE, SAKAEGUCHI, SUYAMA!
AND MAKE SURE TO WORK COMBO PLAYS!
DURING THE THIRD ROUND'S DEFENSE, TAKE THOSE BUNTS, TAKE THOSE FLIES,
AND EVERY-BODY ELSE.

LET'S TAKE THAT AS OUR MENU!
OKAY!
THAT'S ALL.
あ
す
capt on 1/es!
IF WE GO FOR THIS BATTING ORDER, TAJIMA WILL GET ON BASE FIRST.
tweet tweet
buzz buzz
NEXT, ABOUT OUR OFFENSE.
chirp

TAKE IT SERIOUSLY, YOU'RE BRINGING US IN~
I KNOW!
THEN HANAI WILL HAVE TO HIT THE BIG ONES!
Snap
I am serious!!
Gasp
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE PICKOFF FROM THE CATCHER.
I SEE.
That's right.
THEIR PITCHER IS A SOUTH-PAW SO THE RUNNER ON FIRST SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
Yeah, yeah...
WELL, HE DID TRAP TWO RUNNERS!
buzz buzz buzz
YOU'RE SCARED OF HIS OVER-ACTION?

WHEN THERE ARE GUYS ON FIRST AND THIRD, THEY THROW IT BACK SO MUCH IT GETS ANNOYING.
AND THEY DON'T LET UP FOR EVEN ONE INNING
YOU CAN'T GUARANTEE WE WON'T MESS UP, EITHER.
BOTH OF THOSE WERE THE RUNNERS' FAULT.
SFX chirp chirp tweet tweet buzz buzz chirp chirp tweet tweet buzz buzz buzz
WELL, THE BASE COACH SHOULD NOTICE IT.
WHEN HE CONFIRMS THAT IT'S A HIT, HE SHOULD DEFINITELY CALL OUT THE POSITION OF THE BALL.
He'll run the way round!
All you will have left to do is run
...OH, RIGHT. YEAH, THAT'S HOW IT WAS.

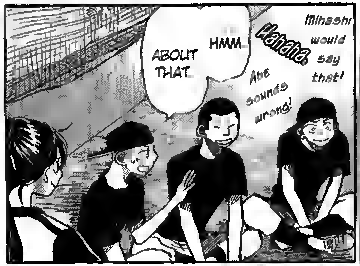
I WANT TO MAKE THE NEXT ONE A CALLED GAME
AH, I WANTED TO SAY.
chirp chirp
AS FOR THE OTHERS
buzz buzz



caption Huh?

IF WE KEEP GOING LIKE THIS, BY THE NEXT GAME WE'LL ALL...
EVEN NINE INNINGS IS TOO LONG
THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL GO ALONG WITH SAKITAMA AND DO EXTRA INNINGS.

I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT BUT...
OH
IT'S - ME
...BEGIN TO BREAK DOWN, STARTING WITH MIHASHI.
caption Erk
Well, I guess that's true...
chirp chirp chirp
I THINK IT'S BEST TO FINISH THE GAME EARLY.
TO KEEP HIM GOING,
HMM...
OH
UM



SFX BUZZ BUZZ

YEAH.
THAT MIGHT BE GOOD!
caption Eh?!
えっ
えっ

SAKITAMA SCORES A LOT OF RUNS, BUT THEY ALSO GIVE UP A LOT.
IN THEIR FIRST GAME,
THEY GAVE UP SEVEN INNINGS. IN THEIR SECOND, THEY GAVE UP FIVE.
IF THEY'RE NOT GETTING ANY RUNS,
THEN IT WOULDN'T BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR US!
Really?
I see... Or is it?
sfx: buzz buzz chirp chirp chirp twist twist
THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY REAL DATA ON US, SO..
IT'D BE EFFICIENT TO SCORE A LOT RIGHT OFF THE BAT AND GIVE THEM SOME SHOCK EARLY ON.
IF, IN THE FIRST INNING, WE MANAGED TO GET FIVE RUNS IN, IT'D BE GREAT. BUT...
... TWO RUNS PER INNING WOULD BE FINE, TOO.

IF WE GET TWO AT A TIME, THAT MEANS WE CAN'T GIVE UP ANY RUNS.
WHAT ABOUT THEIR #5?
WE'RE WALKING THEIR #5.
caption Oooh
おぅ
EH... ALL HIS AT-BATS?
I'LL SIT FOR THE SECOND AT-BAT.
I MIGHT WALK HIM ANYWAY, BUT...

IF THERE'S A SITUATION WHERE WE'RE FORCED TO CHALLENGE HIM,
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE UNPREPARED.
WALKING HIM ON PURPOSE LIKE THAT...
IT'S ALSO TO DEMORALIZE THE OPPONENT, RIGHT?

X. Chirp Chirp Buzz Buzz Tweet Tweet Tweet

YEAH.
IF WE DON'T CHALLENGE HIM, IT'LL DEVASTATE EVERYONE IN THE DUGOUT, TOO,
BECAUSE THE FIFTH BATTER HOLDS THE TEAM TOGETHER EMOTIONALLY, AS WELL.
AND THEIR MOMENTUM WILL SLOW DOWN A LOT.

ATTACK-ING THE ATMOS-PHERE OF THE OTHER DUGOUT ...
IS THAT SOMETHING A FIRST-YEAR WOULD THINK OF?!
shiver
shiver
shiver
THAT'S A GOOD OBSERVATION!
I kind of get how that is.
But is there really such a thing?
ANYONE WOULD THINK THAT IT'S A GOOD THING TO KEEP YOUR OWN DUGOUT IN GOOD SPIRITS,
OH, RIGHT
COACH!
YES?!
shiver
shiver
shiver
exception Oooooh!
お
CAN YOU THROW A SCREWBALL FOR US?

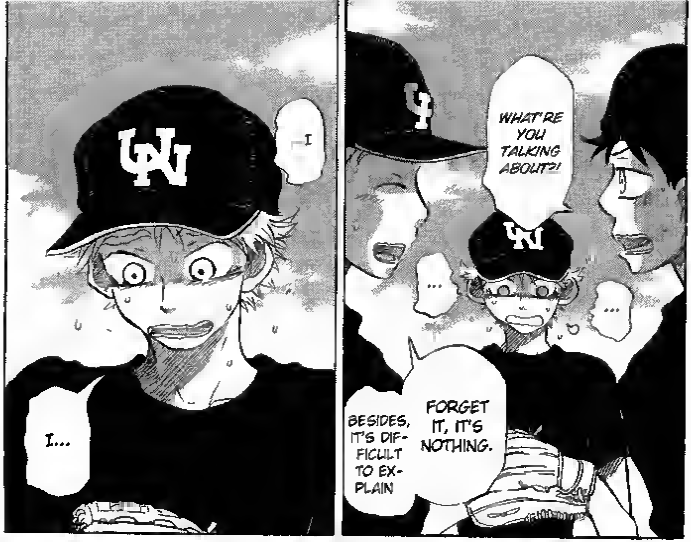
I COULD MAKE IT BREAK BEFORE, SO I THINK I CAN TRY IT NOW.
chirp
clench
buzz buzz
I'LL START FINE-TUNING IT TODAY!
Capt ons Wow! That's cool
IT'D BE GOOD TO TRY AND SEE IF WE CAN!
I GUESS THERE'S NO REASON TO DISAGREE WITH ABE.
DOES ANYONE ELSE HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD?
WELL THEN ...
UM ...
I've never hit a screwball!
Sfx tweet tweet chirp
IT'LL DEFINITELY BE INTERESTING.
IF WE CAN PULL IT OFF, THAT'D BE COOL.
Seriously?!

ARE WE REALLY GOING TO AIM FOR A CALLED GAME?
ARE WE GONNA DO IT?
SFX: chirp chirp chirp buzz buzz
guys: chatter chatter
AS THE CLEANUP HITTER, A LOT OF IT'S UP TO ME!
THAT MEANS...
Caption: BOI IT!
WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE WITH THAT GOAL IN MIND!!
FOR THE NEXT FOUR DAYS
ALL RIGHT!

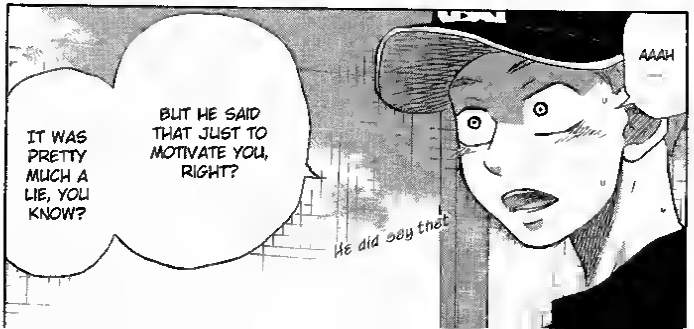
inhale
Caption: HE, HI
LET'S GET THE CALLED GAME!
おおおお

glance
glance
He always feels a little anxious before finding a partner for catchball.
Chiyo-chan can you come with me to start pitching practice?
Okay...!!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S START WITH CATCH-BALL!
うーよ!
caption: Yes!
WERE YOU GOING TO SAY SOMETHING EARLIER?
sfx: tap tap
EARLI--
...?
WHEN ABE WAS TALKING.
MIWASH!!
sfx: chirp chirp chirp buzz buzz buzz

WAH!
WHAT?
sheep
sfx: tweet tweet
AFTER THE "I... I..."
sfx jump
WELL ...
I JUST THOUGHT THAT MIHASHI SAID SOMETHING EARLIER.
?
THEN ABE SAID SOMETHING LIKE "HE'S JUST GONNA SAY 'I CAN PITCH' ANYWAY!"
sfx chirp chirp chirp
IF IT IS, IT'S FINE NOW.
AH ... MAYBE IT'S NOTHING
WHAT IS IT?
sfx buzz buzz
HUH!?


I...
I...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
...
...
FORGET IT, IT'S NOTHING.
BESIDES, IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN

I...
OH?
IN THE LAST GAME,
ABE-KUN TOLD ME
THAT
I SHOULD SWITCH OUT


AAAH
BUT HE SAID THAT JUST TO MOTIVATE YOU, RIGHT?
IT WAS PRETTY MUCH A LIE, YOU KNOW?
He did say that

IF I CLOSE MY EYES AND JUST LISTEN, IT'S NOT AS IRRITATING AS IT SHOULD BE
WELL, THAT'S
AH!
THAT IT'S A LIE?
WHAT?
YOU KNEW THAT?
YOU
I
I DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT
I RE-GRETTED IT, THAT I...
EN--
SLEEP-ING?
IS ABE-KUN
HUH?
distance
sfx: buzz buzz buzz
sfx: chirp chirp
sfx: chirp chirp
HAHAHA!
DIDN'T LISTEN
Okay!
whap!
whap!
flashback
Aim for the chest!
WELL, HE WAS PRETTY FORCEFUL, SO IT PROBABLY SEEMED MORE SERIOUS TO YOU.

EH,
IT'LL HAPPEN QUITE A BIT.
sfx: tweet tweet tweeet
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE A PRO WHO CAN GO FOR THREE HOURS ...
...
sfx: chirp chirp
EVEN THOUGH
sfx buzz buzz
I REGRET IT,
I THOUGHT I MIGHT DO IT AGAIN
...
sfx buzz buzz
!
YOU MEAN, THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE TOLD TO, YOU MIGHT NOT GET OFF THE MOUND?
.. OH, WAIT
sfx chirp chirp chirp
IF ABE-KUN SAYS NO.
I..

BUT...
...
BUT I

I REALLY AM...
IT'S BE-CAUSE THAT MEANS
sfx chirp chirp chirp
DONE FOR ...

caption: Ash sorry!
IF I DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT I'M TOLD ..

sfx tweet tweet tweet
THEN I'LL BE AWARE OF WHAT I'VE DONE.
IF YOU DO THAT,
YOU TO CATCH MY PITCHES ANYMORE.
I DON'T WANT
sfx buzz buzz buzz

BECAUSE EVEN IF I PITCH ALONE,
clench
sfx tweet..
IT WON'T HAVE ANY MEANING AT ALL...!
"IF MIHASHI COL-LAPSES, WE'LL LOSE," ISN'T SAYING
"EVEN IF MIHASHI COLLAPSES, WE WON'T SUB HIM," YOU KNOW?
Erm...
I'M JUST SAYING WELL, THIS TO MAKE SURE, BUT,
...

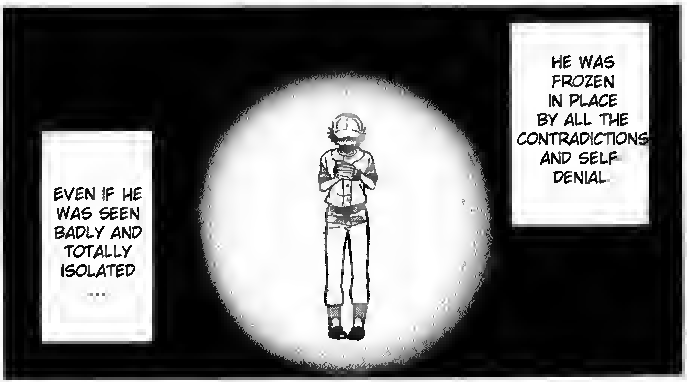
sfx
buzz
buzz
chirp
chirp
chirp
HANAI AND OKI AREN'T AT A LEVEL TO PITCH IN A REGULAR GAME, SO
IF THERE COMES A POINT THAT YOU CAN NO LONGER PITCH, IT'S THE SAME THING AS US LOSING--
I THINK...
YEAH!
HUH?
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH?
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN, RIGHT?
SOOO,
FROM NOW ON, WE WON'T HAVE ANY MISUNDER-STANDINGS.
RIGHT, ABE?

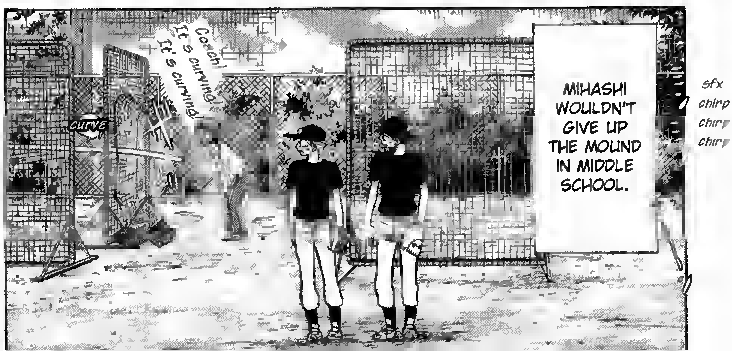
I'LL JOIN HANAI.
We'll do it with three of us
Okay
...
OH! SORRY!
HEY, YOU THREE! GET BACK TO WORK!
sfx chirp
HEY
YOU WERE THINKING A LOT, HUH.
beatthump
sfx ... grrr
NEXT TIME
I WON'T
UH ... I ...
fidget
fidget
glance
sfx beatump beatump
sfx. SNAP
SAY ANYTHING ...
WHEN I'M WRONG ...

sfx: squeeze squeeze ARGH SNAP CRASH BOOM grind grind grind
WRONG!!!
YOU NEED TO SAY MORE, NOT LESS!
DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL, MIHASHI ....
They're at it again...
KOON
MIHASHI'S OBSESSED WITH STAYING ON THE MOUND
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE REASON WHY
MORE THAN BEING OBVI-OUSLY BULLIED,
HE WAS PROBABLY JUST TOTALLY IGNORED.

BUT ON THE MOUND,
THE GAME DOESN'T START UNTIL THE PITCHER THROWS HIS PITCH.
THEY ALWAYS ACTED LIKE HE WASN'T THERE
AND HE STARTED TO FEEL LIKE HE WAS INVISIBLE TO THEM.
WHEN HE STANDS ON THE MOUND,
HE KNOWS FOR CERTAIN THAT HE EXISTS THERE.

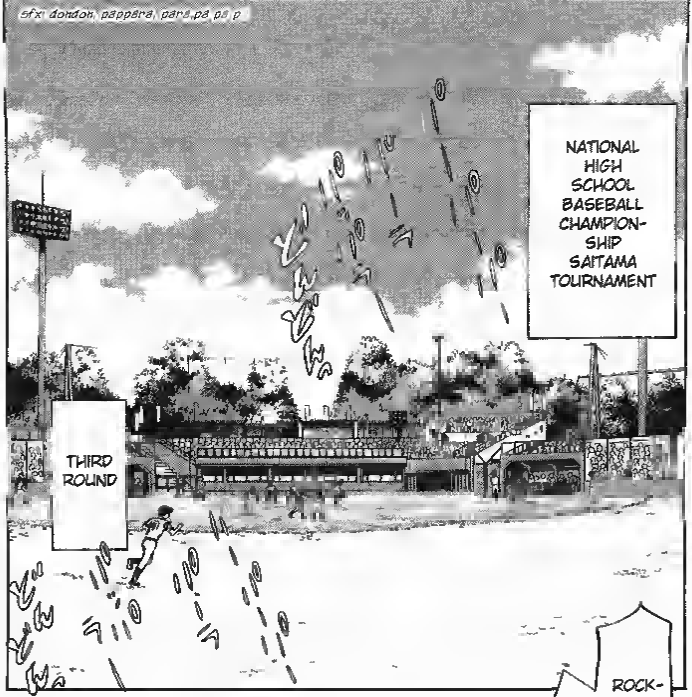
IF HE GETS OFF THE MOUND,
HE'D FEEL LIKE HE DIDN'T EXIST ANYMORE.
SHOCK...
...
I got scared just imagining it

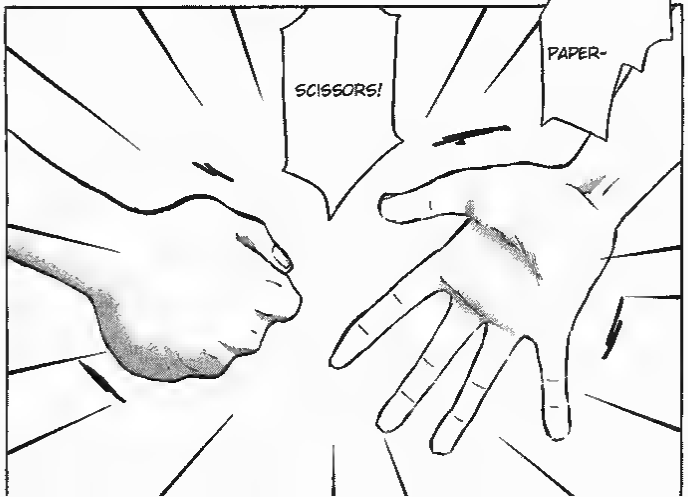

EVEN IF HE WAS SEEN BADLY AND TOTALLY ISOLATED ....
HE WAS FROZEN IN PLACE BY ALL THE CONTRADICTIONS AND SELF DENIAL


sfx poff
curve
Coach! It's swinging! It's swinging!
MIHASHI WOULDN'T GIVE UP THE MOUND IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
sfx chirp chirp chirp

Okay!
Three minutes, starting now!
BUT NOW, HE SAID HE'S FINALLY WILLING TO GIVE UP THE MOUND!

caption Okay ready!
I'D BE GLAD IF HE THOUGHT HE HAD SOMEWHERE TO BELONG EVEN IF HE GETS OFF THE MOUND.
sfx buzz buzz
sfx tweet tweet chirp chirp
WELL, THAT'S ALL JUST MY IMAGINATION, ANYWAY!


SFX: donbon pappara para pa p
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CHAMPION-SHIP SAITAMA TOURNAMENT
THIRD ROUND


ROCK-
PAPER-
SCISSORS!

"You'd better take the field first"
THEY ALL SAID,
OOH... THIS IS BAD
pa pa pa para
BUT IT'S ROCK PAPER SCISSORS SO I CAN'T HELP IT!
whisper whisper
OUR TEAM BATS FIRST!
OH

MAAAN, THAT WAS CLOSE.
Let's have a great game!
LET'S HAVE A GREAT GAME!
shake
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
HMM...
'SCUSE US!
bow
sfx chirp chirp
sfx pa pa pa pa
MAYBE THERE'S SOME REASONING BEHIND IT, BUT...
EVEN THOUGH THEY DID EXTRA INNINGS TWICE, THEY STILL CHOSE TO BAT FIRST.

SFX: chirp chirp
THEIR COACH IS A BASEBALL NOVICE AFTER ALL.
THE CHANCE OF THIS GAME GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN IS STRONG!
IT STILL SHOWS THEY'RE NOT PRIORITIZING RIGHT!
SMIRK
SFX: don don don
caption: HEAH!
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET A CALLED GAME TODAY?
UM....
WELL.
SFX: buzz buzz
HANAI-KUN!
YES!
I'm doing the

WHEN I SAW THE CAPTAIN AND THEIR COACH JUST NOW,
I THOUGHT, "WE CAN DO IT!"
sfx: tuiset
...
IN ANY CASE,
WE'RE GOING TO AIM FOR IT,
OF COURSE
sfx: chirp chirp

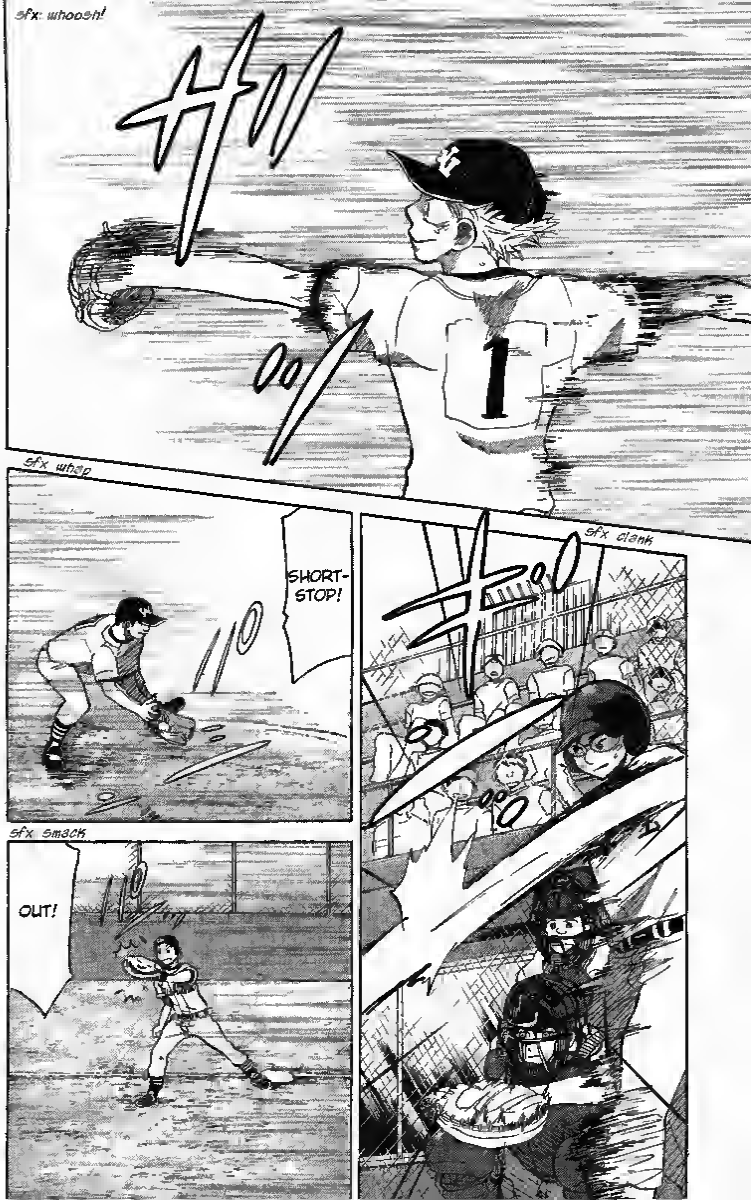
!
beduimp

I JUST KNOW IT, HANAI-KUN.
pat
TODAY, YOU'LL BECOME A HERO!
Nishiura
Nishiura
sfx: chirp chirp

sfx. kachiiink
text
text
sfx. buzz buzz
Catcher!
Yes!
x chirp chirp
IT'S HAMA-CHAN!
NO, IT'S NOT...
Here you go
patt
rattle
YOUR HUS-BAND?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
AH,
SHOULD I GIVE YOU MY SON'S NUMBER?
Both teams please start preparing
MY, ISN'T HE A LITTLE YOUNG TO BE YOUR TEXT BUDDY?
THE OUENDAN CAPTAIN?
I KNOW IT ALREADY!
IT'S ON THE ADDRESS LIST!
caption YEAH!

IT'S LONELY WITHOUT THE STUDENTS.
THE LAST GAME WAS LIKE A DREAM, REALLY ...
SFX: TWEET-TWEET
THEY'RE NOT COMING TODAY, ARE THEY?
THERE'S SCHOOL, AFTER ALL.
SO I'M GIVING HIM A LIVE REPORT!
RIGHT!
SFX: BUZZ-BUZZ
HUH?!
LIKE CHEER LEADERS?!
TODAY, LET'S DO OUR BEST CHEERING THEM ON!
HEY, WAIT! YOU SHOULDN'T HAMPER THE PLAYER'S DETERMINATION"
AH! IT'S STARTING!
SFX: Ky-n-ha!
bottles shake shake

FIRST INNING!
LET'S DO THIS!
caption: Heaaaah!
LET 'EM HIT, PITCHER!
... A HERO?


sfx: whoosh!
1
sfx: whap
SHORT-STOP!
sfx: clank
sfx: smack
OUT!

SFX: KACHINK
SFX: SMACK
NICE CATCH!
A "HERO" MEANS ...
NISHIKI
SFX: WHAM!
NI-
NICE CATCH!
OUT!

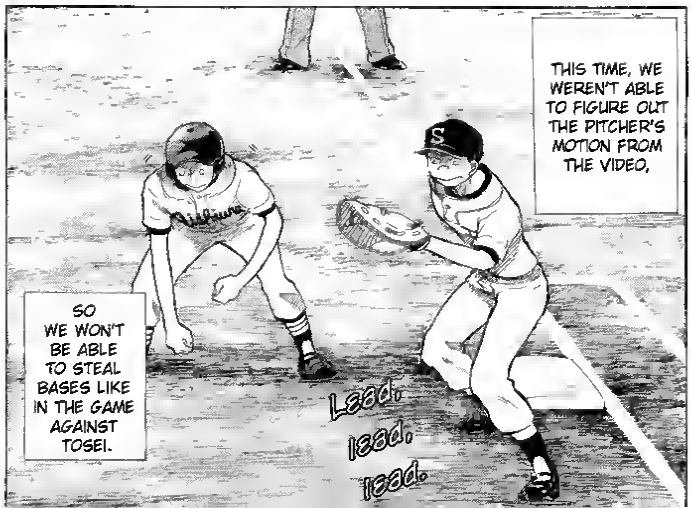
I'VE
Kachink!
First!
whap!
GOT TO HIT IT!
Do it yourself!
caption: Yes, ma'am!
SCORE MORE THAN TWO RUNS IN THE FIRST INNING!
NOW, LET'S START!
Nishiura

THE TEAM WHO DEFEATED TOSEI, EH?
BOTTOM OF THE FIRST INNING
?
sfx whap whap
Ready!
NISHIURA HIGH SCHOOL AT BAT.
MORE THAN TWO POINTS ?
RIGHT BETWEEN THIRD, FIRST AND HOME!
grip
BATTING FIRST, FIRST BASEMAN, TAJIMA-KUN. JERSEY #5
sfx lift

SFX: CLANK
SAFETY BUNT!
SFX: SHIFT
SAFE!
SFX: WHOOP
OH! YOU MAKE IT LOOK EASY!
ABE: NICE BUNT!
I'LL GET MY TURN AT THE PLATE...!
TAJIMA IS EVEN GOOD AT BUNTS, DAMMIT.
THERE WON'T BE ANY DOUBLE PLAYS WITH HIM ON BASE.
SFX: CHILL

BATTING SECOND, SECOND BASEMAN, SAKAE-GUCHI-KUN
JER-SEY #4
5
READY!

WE'LL GET THOSE RUNS THIS INNING FOR SURE!
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THE PLAN TO WALK SAKURA-KUN DOESN'T FALL THROUGH!
NO MATTER WHERE YOU PLACE TAJIMA-KUN, HE'S GOOD!
PHEW!
Shiver
Shiver


THIS TIME, WE WEREN'T ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE PITCHER'S MOTION FROM THE VIDEO,
SO WE WON'T BE ABLE TO STEAL BASES LIKE IN THE GAME AGAINST TOSEI.
Lead.
Lead.
Lead.

Lead.
Lead!
Nishiura
WE'LL MAKE SAKAEGUCHI-KUN WAIT UNTIL THE FIRST STRIKE
TO MAKE SURE HE GETS THE TIMING.
pat
pat
Kirira
THE SECOND GUY WILL PROBABLY BUNT, TOO...
AAH, MAN.. THE FIRST GUY GOT ON EASY.
thrm
sfx whoosh
sfx sft
WE'LL CHALLENGE THEIR THIRD BATTER!

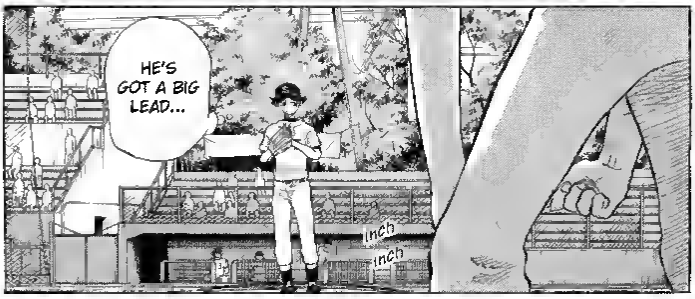
whap!
stare
SEEMS LIKE HE HASN'T BEEN A PITCHER FOR VERY LONG...
turn
swish
sfx: fwoosh
Nice call!
5
IT'S NOT AT THE LEVEL TO HAVE ANY OBVIOUS HABITS.
THIS GUY'S FORM ISN'T DEVELOPED ...!
BALL!
sniff

?!
sfx flick
sfx dash
sfx. WHOOSH
sfx. slide
sfx. wh.
sfx BAM

THAT WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN AN OUT!
Pitcher, pitcher!
Nice throw!
Pat! Pat!
I WASN'T EVEN FAR AND HE STILL THREW IT?!
SAFE!
ISN'T HE JUST RISKING AN ERROR?
Thanks!
THERE'S STILL NO POINT IN CHECKING THE RUNNER IN THAT SITUATION.
Nice save!
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT THEY HAVEN'T HAD ANY FIELD ERRORS SO FAR.
9

IT HELPS THAT WE HAD THE CHANCE TO VERIFY THE CATCHER'S RHYTHM BEFORE ADVANCING TO SECOND BASE.
IT'S NOT JUST DUMB -- IT'S ANNOYING THAT THEY'RE DRAGGING THINGS OUT.
I GUESS THAT COULD BE WHAT THEY'RE TRYING TO DO, BUT...
3
IT'S TAJIMA'S TIME UNTIL THE FIRST STRIKE!
WE'RE GONNA GET THE CALLED GAME TODAY.
HOO!

TO USE MY FEET TO MESS THEM UP!
IT'S MY ROLE
Nishiura
Shift
Slide


HE'S GOT A BIG LEAD...
Inch
Inch

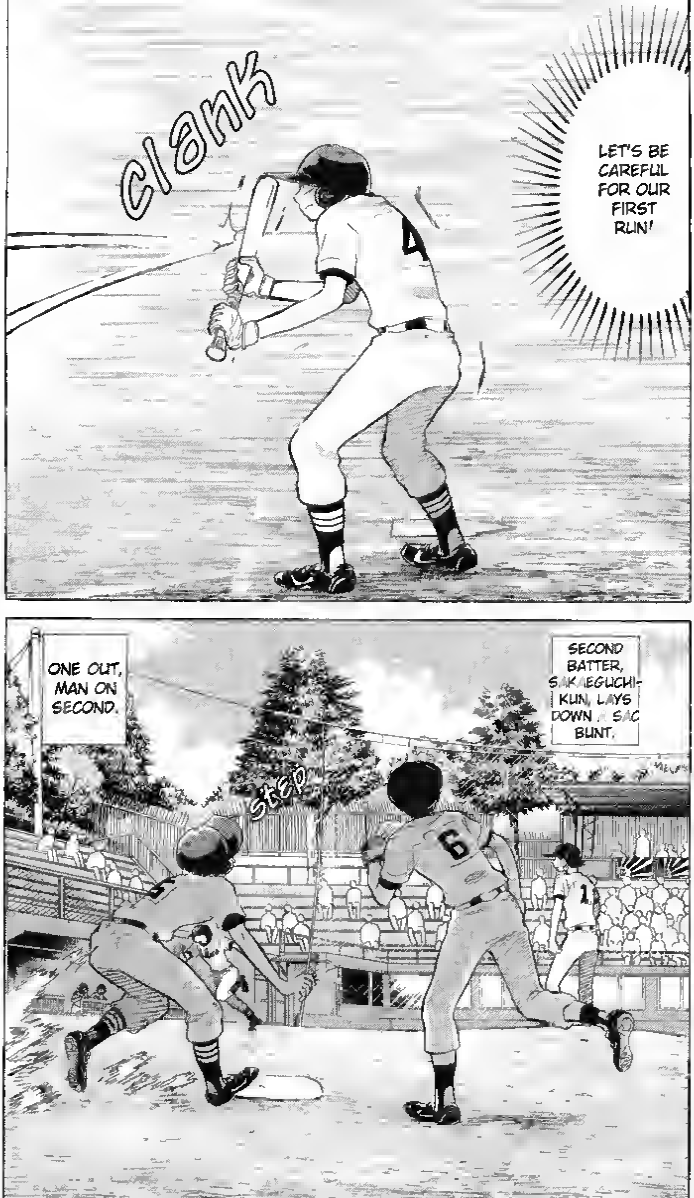
SENPAI, OVER HERE!
!
SHOULD I THROW?
S
...

YOU SURE LOVE THE PICKOFF.
. . . YOU WANT TO THROW IT?
Lead. lead...
LET'S CHALLENGE THE BATTER!
はん
はん
I'M TIRED, I'LL LEAVE IT SO
FINE, THEN.
Lead. lead...
sfx badump badump
sfx dash
ALL RIGHT!
sfx whoosh
TO DAICHI!

BAM
sfx BAM
RAAAH!
sfx whoosh
sfx wham

SFX: SWISH
ALL RIGHT!
HUH?
SFX: FLIP
HE WENT BACK?
OH.
SFX: SLIDE

THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!
WITH THAT TIMING, I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT!
Nishino
HA-HA!
THIS IS PRETTY EXCITING!
grin
THE STRIKE'S IN.
FROM HERE, WE'LL ATTACK STRAIGHT ON.
pat


clank
LET'S BE CAREFUL FOR OUR FIRST RUN!
ONE OUT, MAN ON SECOND.
SECOND BATTER, SAKAEGUCHI-KUN, LAYS DOWN A SAC BUNT.
Sta!
6
1

PHEW.
BATTING THIRD, THIRD BASEMAN, IZUMI-KUN.
ALL RIGHT!
JERSEY #8
THINGS ARE GOING SMOOTHLY!
relieved...
phew.
nice bunt!
THAT HELPS A LOT.
NOW, IZUMI-KUN...
UP UNTIL NOW, HE'S ONLY BEEN HITTING WITH HIS RIGHT SIDE.
IF WE WANTED TO BE SAFE, I'D CALL FOR A BUNT, BUT...
I BET HE WANTS TO HIT IT.

SHE'S LETTING IZUMI HIT IT.
READY!
TRY HITTING IT. THE FIRST PITCH WILL BE INSIDE THE STRIKE ZONE!
grip
OH, SO I CAN GO FOR IT?
FEELS LIKE A REAL THIRD BATTER!
WHETHER OR NOT HE GETS OUT,
I'LL SCORE A RUN FOR SURE!
THIS IS A NICE THIRD BATTER SPOT.
TAJIMA IS ON BASE,
AND HANAI IS AFTER ME.
Shff
SNAP

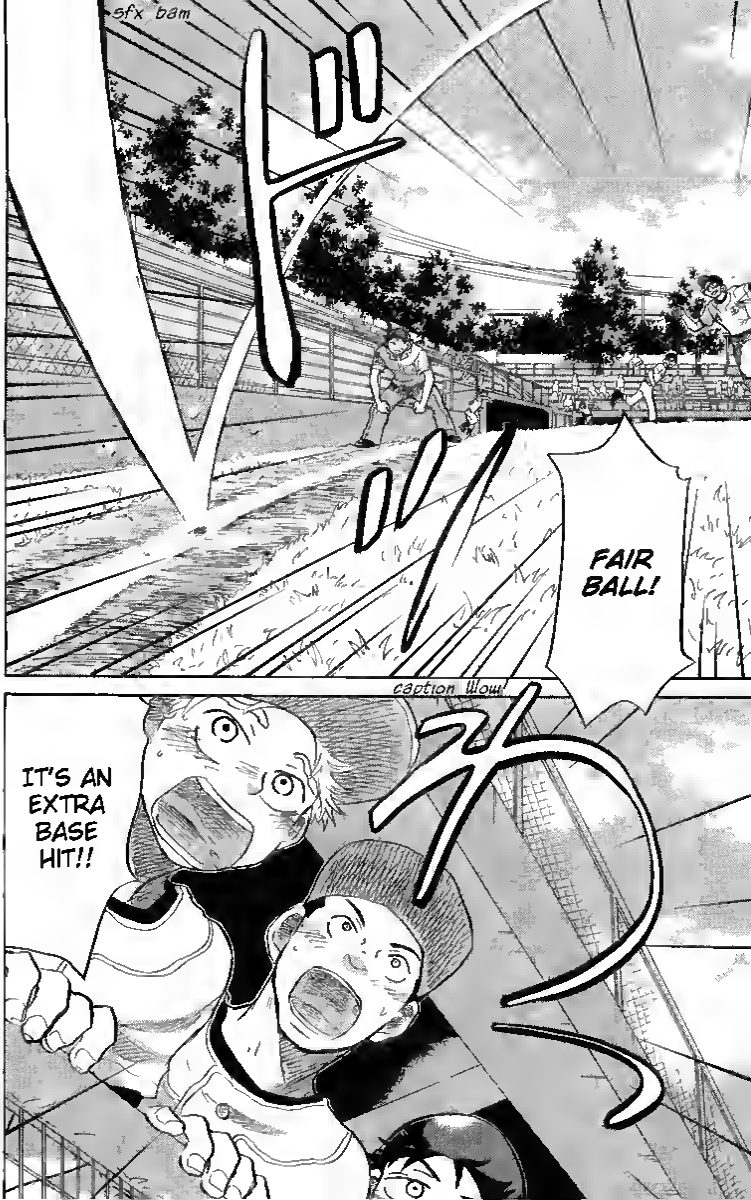
MORE THAN "RELAXED,"
I'M STARTING TO FEEL POSITIVE.
grip
THE INSIDE CORNER NOPE. ?
Shake
THIS GUY WAS MOVED FROM LEADOFF TO THIRD BATTER.
S
Shake
tap
tap
snip
creak
OH!
tap
tap
THE OUTSIDE IS OKAY,
Shake
BUT NOT INSIDE THE STRIKE ZONE!

Lead,
lead,
lead!
I'LL JUST TELL HIM WHAT TO DO SO IT'S FINE,
straighten
BUT HE NEVER REMEMBERS MY PREFERENCES!
Maybe this?
Or that?
tap
tap
THE FIRST ONE'S OUTSIDE, TO THROW HIM OFF!
RIGHT!
nod
S

grip
I'M TIRED OF SHAKING MY HEAD!
Swoosh

sfx: Zoom
IS IT TOO FAR OUT?
NAH, IT'S GOOD!
sfx swoosh
sfx crack

sfx: whoosh
IS IT OUT?!
sfx Zoom
NO...

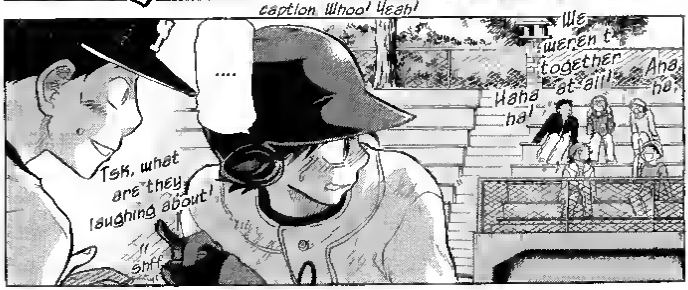

sfx bam
FAIR BALL!
caption Wow!
IT'S AN EXTRA BASE HIT!!

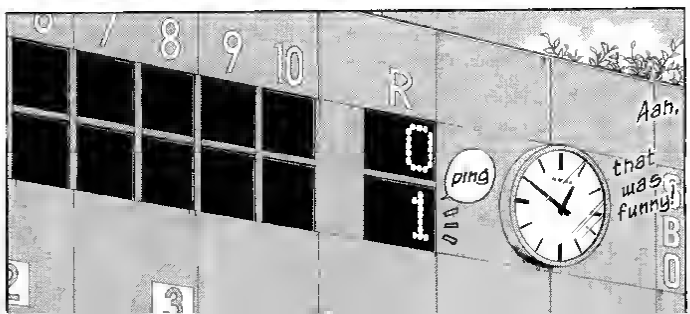
THE FIRST RUN!
TAJIMA, GO!
...
GASP
GOTTA PICK UP THE BAT!
Get to home!
You've got lots of time!
dash
IZUMI, GO! GO!

HE'S GOING FOR THIRD!
sfx: dash
sfx: dash
sfx: whap
RIGHT FIELD, THIRD!!
IZUMI, SLIDE IN! GO LEFT!
DAMMIT, HE'S ALREADY GONE!

SFX: SLIDE
SAFE! SAFE!
A TRIPLE HIT!
READY, GO!
nice batting!
HEY! LET'S SAY THE CHEER, TOO!
YEAH!
Mrs Izumi→
rattle
rattle
rattle
EH! REALLY?

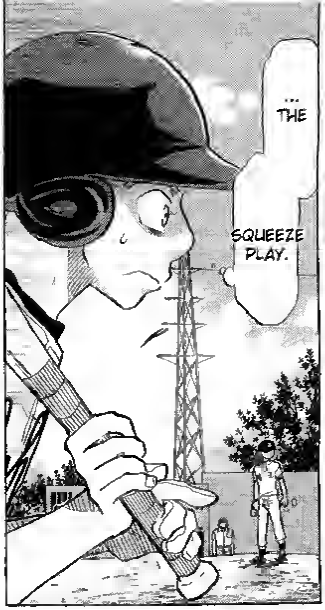
nice batting!
nice hit!
Eh?
What?
nice batting!!
Good job!
ばんら
ばんら
DO IT WHEN I SAY "GO"!
READY, GO!
What?
How?!

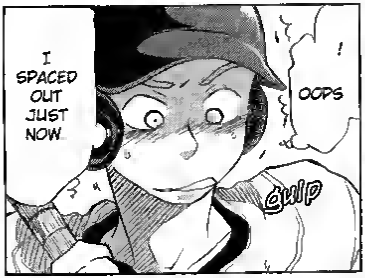

caption. Whoo! Yeah!
....
We weren't together at all!
Aha ha
Haha ha!
Tsk, what are they laughing about!
shff


9
10
R
0
1
Aah, that was funny!
ping
2
3
BO

MY JOB HASN'T CHANGED!
I'LL BRING IN THE RUNS!
clench
UM, LET'S SEE...
JERSEY #9.
BATTING FOURTH, CENTER FIELDER, HANAI-KUN
One out!
AS LONG AS WE KEEP HITTING, THE MOMENTUM WILL BE ON OUR SIDE.
One out!
WITH A RUNNER ON THIRD AND THE CLEANUP AT BAT, THEIR DEFENSES SHOULD BE TENSING UP!
pat
THE GAME'S IN MOTION NOW!
pat

poof


...THE SQUEEZE PLAY.


I SPACED OUT JUST NOW.
OOPS
gulp

WE'RE BEING CAREFUL UNTIL THE SECOND RUN IS IN
grip
I CAN'T RUIN THIS OPPORTUNITY!

READY!
It's too uncool
CUT IT OUT!
AM I GETTING BITTER?
9
Keep it going!
JUST GET THROUGH THIS.

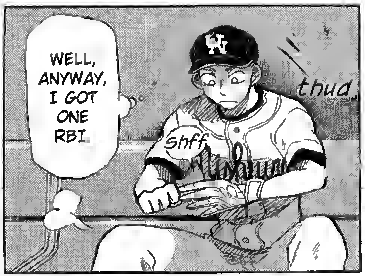
THEY ACT SO OBVI-OUSLY LIKE FIRST-YEARS.
BOTH THIS GUY AND DAICHI,
PLAY BALL!
FIRST, GOTTA MAKE IT LOOK LIKE I'M READY TO HIT IT OUT
LET'S GO!

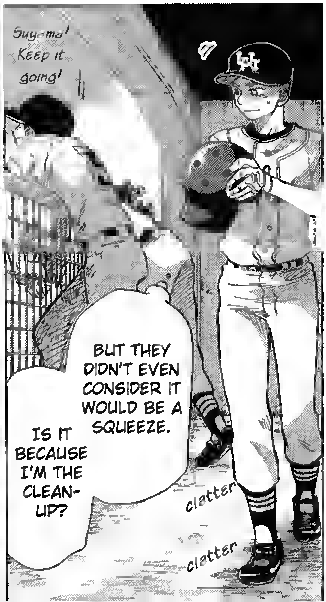
THROW IT FAR OUTTA THE ZONE ..
Swish
Shff

clank
NICE, HANAI!
SIX DASH!

SFX: WAVE
IT'S TOO LATE.
SECOND RUN IN!
SFX: STEP
caption: HEAH!

NICE BUNT!
THANKS.
I'M JUST GLAD I DIDN'T MISS IT
clatter
BATTING FIFTH, SHORT-STOP, SUYAMA-KUN
WHEW.
step
step


WELL, ANYWAY, I GOT ONE RBI.
thud
Sniff


Suy-ma! Keep it going!
BUT THEY DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT WOULD BE A SQUEEZE.
IS IT BECAUSE I'M THE CLEAN-UP?
clatter
clatter

NEXT TIME, TOO...
Kachunk

DON'T FEEL SATISFIED BY THAT.
BY WHAT?
Ah)))
... WHAT?
NOT SATIS-FIED...?
WHY?
I BATTED IN A RUN.
YOU ARE?
Go for it!

I GUESS I COULD'VE DONE BETTER.
Let's go throw some!
Mimashi!
wave
5
Oh!
I GOT OUT AFTER BUNTING IT.
DID HE MEAN, I'D HAVE GOTTEN TWO RBIS IF I'D HIT A HOME RUN?
click
click

BUT, THE COACH'S SIGN SAID TO GO FOR THE SQUEEZE PLAY.
DOES IT MEAN SOMETHING BAD, GETTING THE SIGN FOR A SQUEEZE?
NO, WE'VE HAD THE SAME SITUATION OTHER TIMES.
STRIKE!
MOMOKAN WOULD ASK FOR A BUNT NO MATTER WHO WAS HITTING, RIGHT?

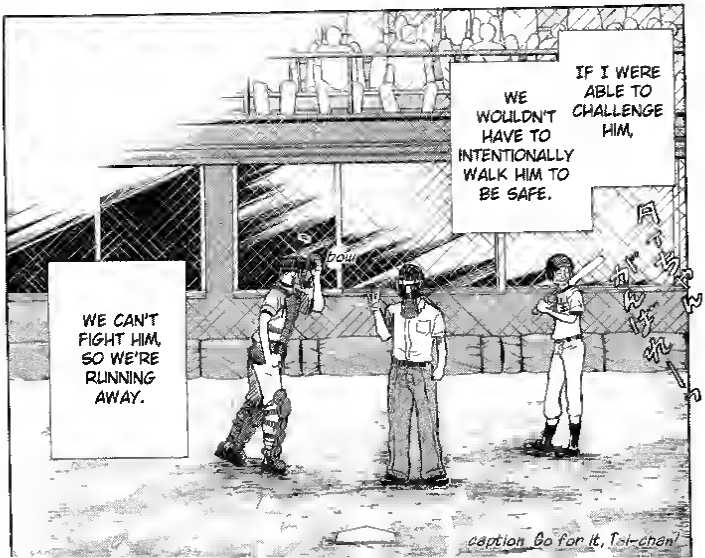
EVERYONE BUT TAJIMA!
HERE!
fwip
Nishiura
STRIKE!
Nice
ball!

YEAH. BUT LOOK, IT'S DAICHI-KUN'S TURN NEXT!
SAKURA! GET A GOOD ONE!
THEY'RE OFF TO A TWO-RUN LEAD.
EAM 1 2
奇玉 0
西浦 2
RIGHT!
DAICHI, DO YOUR BEST!
next up
Daichi's so popular

caption: We're counting on you!
BUT MAKE IT WHERE HE CAN'T REACH EVEN IF HE DOES.
I DON'T KNOW IF HE WOULD TRY,
UH-HUH
YEAH.
click
click
...IT'S THE FIFTH BATTER'S TURN.
clatter
clatter
clatter
WHEN I SET UP BEHIND THE PLATE, THROW A LITTLE FURTHER OUTSIDE THAN WHERE MY MITT IS AT.
OH, BY THE WAY.
THAT OLD GUY OVER THERE, I HAVE A FEELING HE'S A HECKLER.
click
IF HE SAYS ANYTHING ABOUT WALKING THAT GUY, IT'S DIRECTED AT ME, OKAY?
YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT THROWING WHAT I'M ASKING FOR

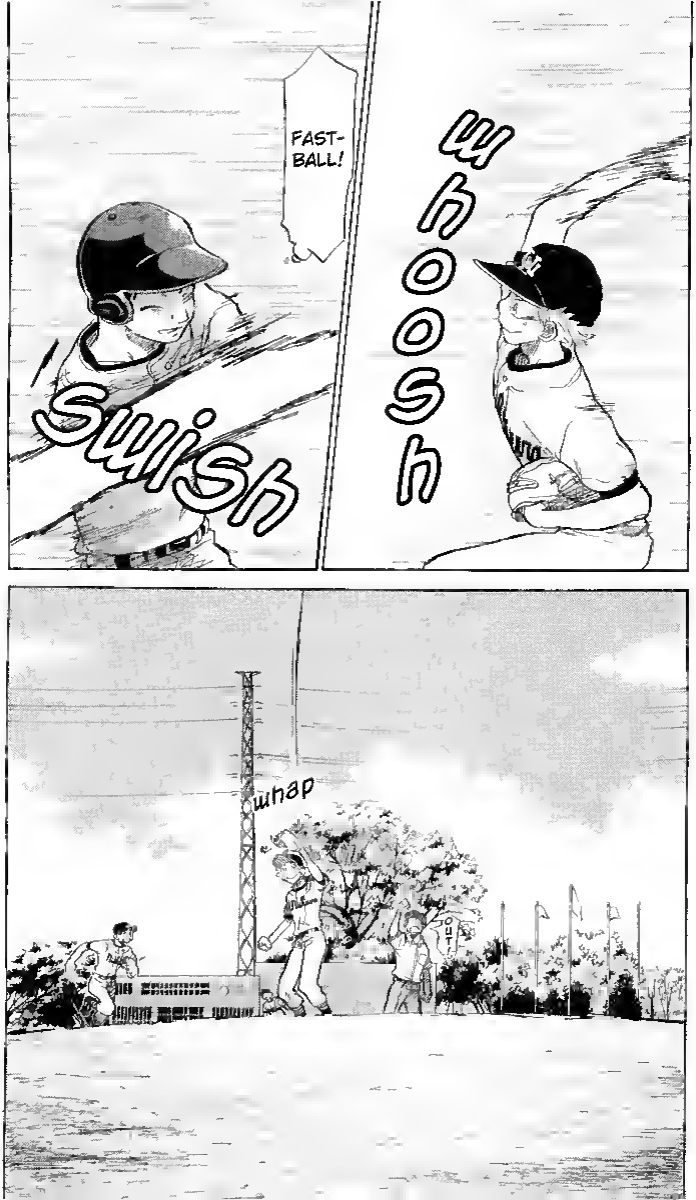
HECK-LING!
IT COULD BE MY
I'M FINE WITH IT!
MI-HASHI, LEMME GET YOUR STUFF.
UM, YOU KNOW...
TH-thanks
flip
OH!
Ack!
poff
WHAT IS IT?
puff
pull
WELL, IF YOU'RE FINE, THEN IT'S ALL GOOD?
IS THAT RIGHT?
YEAH!
YE-
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU!
WE'RE SKIP-PING OVER THE FIFTH BATTER, SO WE GOTTA BE CAREFUL WITH THE OTHERS!

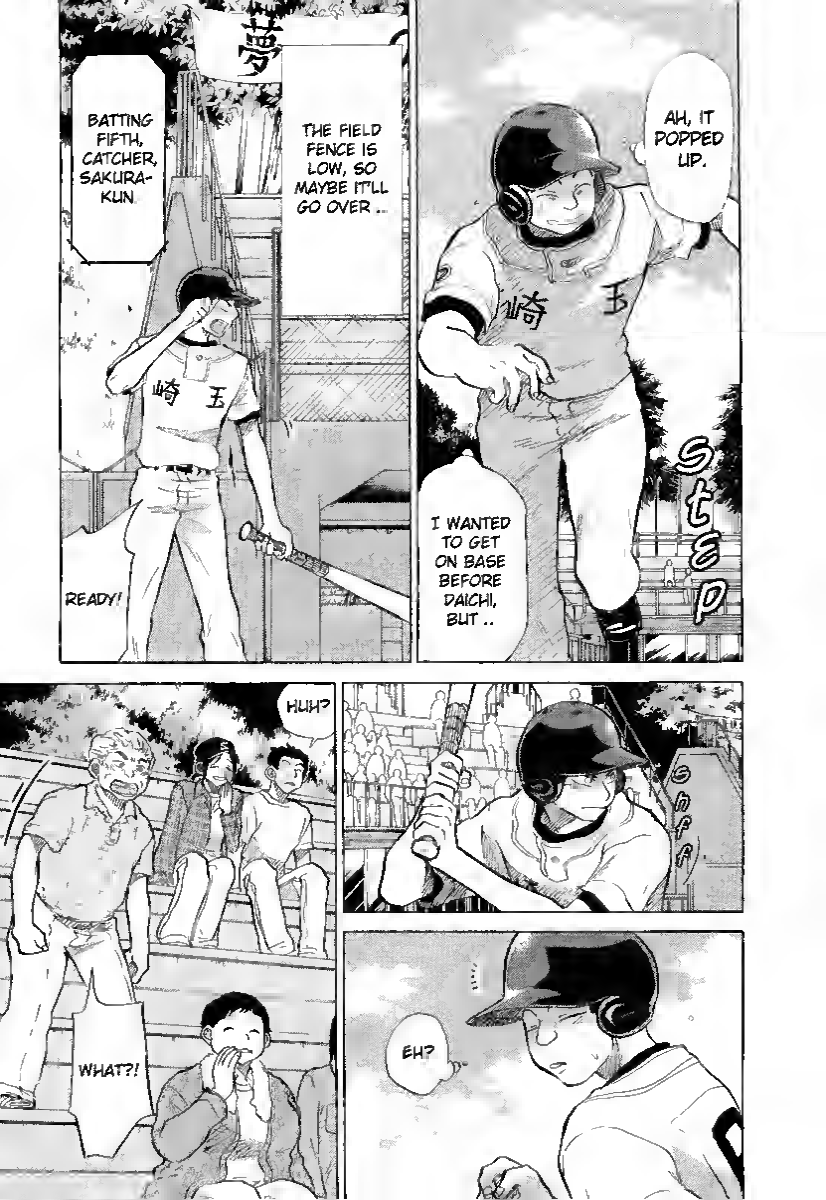
I'M GLAD THEY'RE COUNTING ON ME.
WE'RE GONNA WALK HIM
Nishiura
step
kachink
THAT'S WHEN I PLAY MY BEST.
BECAUSE I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
step
step
kachink

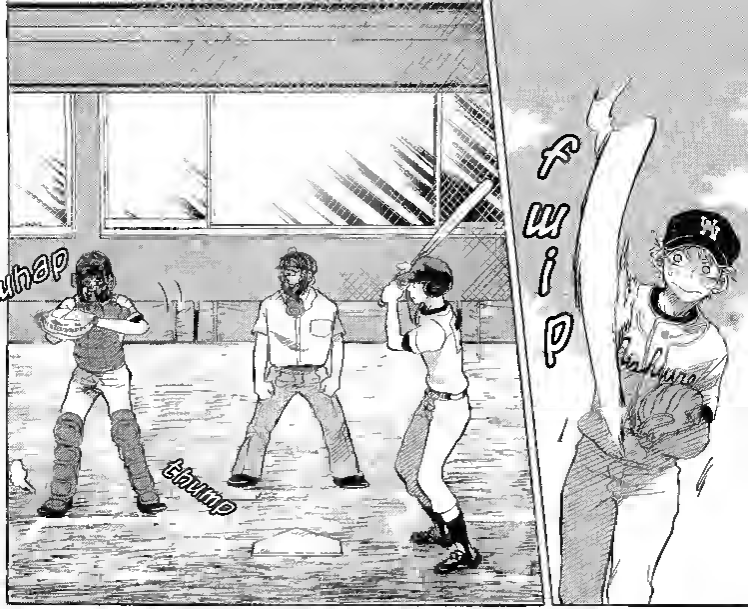

IF I WERE ABLE TO CHALLENGE HIM,
WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO INTENTIONALLY WALK HIM TO BE SAFE.
bow
WE CAN'T FIGHT HIM, SO WE'RE RUNNING AWAY.
caption Go for it, Tsi-chan!

I'LL RUN AWAY.
IF I CAN GET OUT OF IT,
whoosh
I'M FINE WITH BEING HECK-LED!
Caution Tsi-san I'm counting on you!
IF I DO THAT, PEOPLE MIGHT BE ANGRY,
I'm still over it!
ナイスボール!!
...BUT...
bounce
bounce
NICE BALL!
whap
I CAN'T LET HIM GET A HIT!
I'M THE TEAM'S ACE!
Nishiura
SFX: ghhh

TOP OF THE SECOND INNING, SAKITAMA HIGH SCHOOL AT BAT.
UP FIRST, BATTING FOURTH, SHORT-STOP, OYAMA-KUN.
JER-SEY #6.
THIS PITCHER'S GOT NO POWER.
THE FIRST THREE SAID HE SEEMED EASY TO HIT.
MAYBE THE BALL GOES SO SLOW
THAT THEY COULDN'T GET ANY POWER BEHIND IT, AND THE INFIELD GOT THEM OUT.
LETTING HIM GET ON BASE AHEAD OF THAT FIFTH BATTER WOULD SUCK
tap
tap
WHATEVER I DO, GOTTA GET THROUGH TO THE OUTFIELD.
grip


FAST-BALL!
whoosh
Swish
whap
OUT!


AH, IT POPPED UP.
I WANTED TO GET ON BASE BEFORE DAICHI, BUT ..
Step
THE FIELD FENCE IS LOW, SO MAYBE IT'LL GO OVER ..
BATTING FIFTH, CATCHER, SAKURA-KUN.
READY!
崎玉
snff
.....
EH?
HUH?
WHAT?!


whap
thump
fwip

COME OUT AND FIGHT!
PITCH-ER!
A WALK?
EH?
HEY...

WHAP
DON'T WALK HIM!
THAT'S PLAYING DIRTY!
SHOCK
...WAIT, THEY'RE DOING IT ON PURPOSE?
LOOKS LIKE IT
HE'S STANDING UP.
THEY TOOK CARE OF US EVEN BEFORE THIS MATCH BEGAN, HUH?
THEY MARKED HIM.
AND THE PLAN THEY CAME UP WITH IS 'TO INTENTIONALLY WALK HIM'

DAICHI'S PRETTY AMAZING, HUH...?
Bring it on!!
COULD IT BE THAT THEY'RE DOING THIS FOR ALL HIS AT-BATS?
AHA HA, IT'S POS-SIBLE
Isn't that ...
bad for us?
Play catch somewhere else!!
THIS IS BAD.
THEY'VE ALREADY SCORED TWO RUNS OFF US...
BALL FOUR!
Wave

HEY!
BATTING SIXTH, CENTER FIELDER, UEMURA-KUN.
I DIDN'T GET TO HIT IT.
IT LOOKED LIKE AN EASY BALL TO HIT SO I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...
H-
HEY.
WHERE'D YOU PLAY IN JUNIOR HIGH?
Ushiwaka
sfx step
NO,
THERE IS NO SOCCER CLUB...
IN SAKI-TAMA, SO ..
...PLAYED SOCCER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
UM ... I ...
OOH, I SEE NOW!
SO YOU QUIT SOCCER ?
WAS IT THAT ...
THERE WAS NO BASEBALL CLUB IN YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL?!

UM, I PLAYED LITTLE LEAGUE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
WOW, SO YOU JUST STARTED PLAYING BASEBALL!
EXACTLY!
...

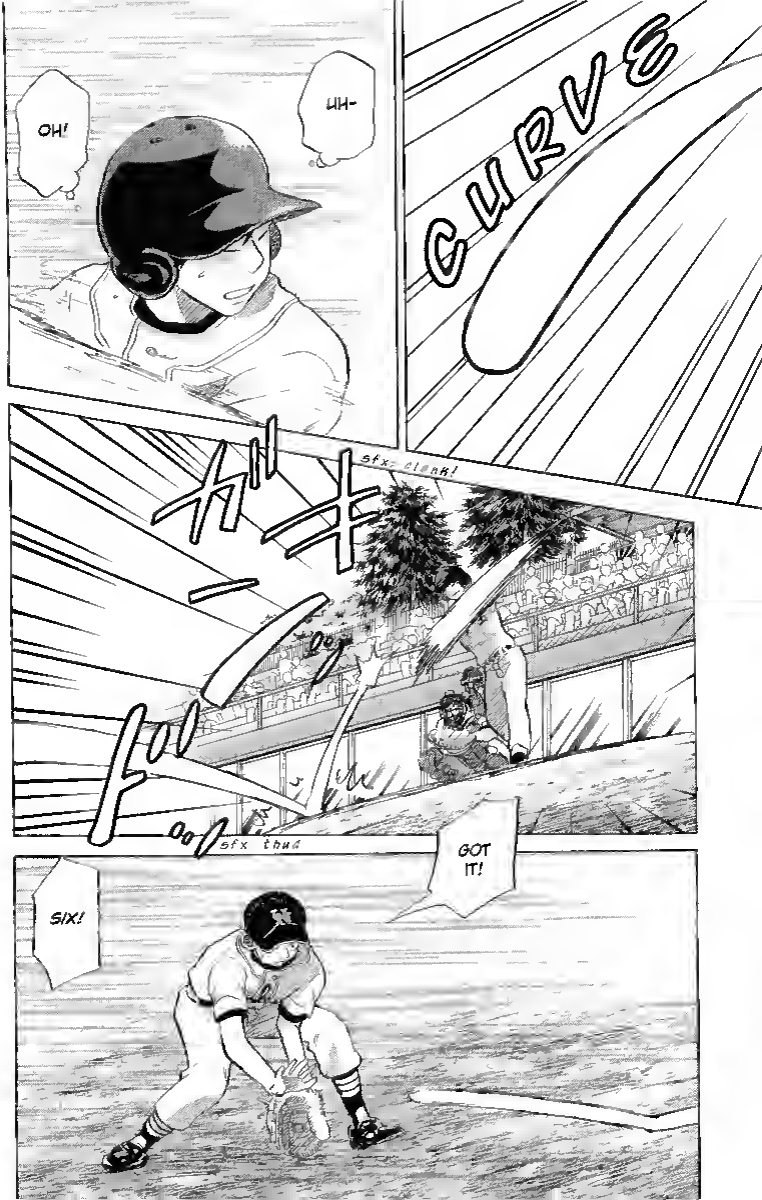
NO PRIVATE CONVER-SATIONS ON THE FIELD!
CAP
RIGHT!
WE'RE SORRY!

I'M A FIRST-YEAR, TOO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO FORMAL!

YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO EARLIER!
WHAT!

YEAH!
UEMURA! HIT IT!
岐
王

HOW ABOUT IT? SHOULD I DO A SENDOFF ?
IT'S FINE TO HIT,
IF IT'S A GOOD BALL.
pat
pat
pat
pat
grip
GOT IT! ON THE INSIDE!
lift
zoom


UH-
OH!
CURVE
sfx: clank!
sfx: thud
GOT IT!
SIX!

FIRST!
turn
step
2
SECOND!
FOUR!
GOT IT!
4
thump
HERE!
THREE!
OUT!
whap

Caption Wowww!!
DOUBLE PLAY!
9

Caption Aaah...
WHAT? WE WERE EVEN GIVEN A GOOD CHANCE...
SO DISAP-POINTING!

SORRY ...
Slap
RYO, THEY GOT YOU ON THE INSIDE CORNER, HUH.
I THOUGHT THE INSIDE, TOO.
SO THEN IT REALLY WAS KIND OF A BREAKING BALL, HUH?
IT CAME DOWN THE MIDDLE, BUT THEN IT BECAME A SHOOT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TAI-SAN?
POFF
WELL ...
UNTIL NOW, THERE HASN'T BEEN A GUY WHO GOT A STRIKEOUT, SO IT STARTS HERE, RIGHT?
YUP!
Step
... BUT
WITH DAICHI SEALED OFF, OUR OFFENSIVE STRENGTH IS DOWN BY HALF.
Glance
Step
IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE TO LOAD UP THE BASES BEFORE DAICHI'S AT-BAT!

CHAPTER 18/END

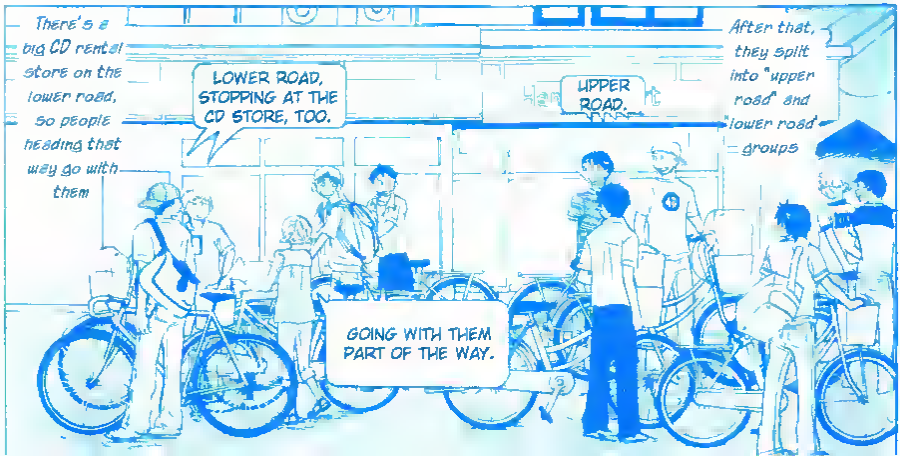
COME JOIN US!!

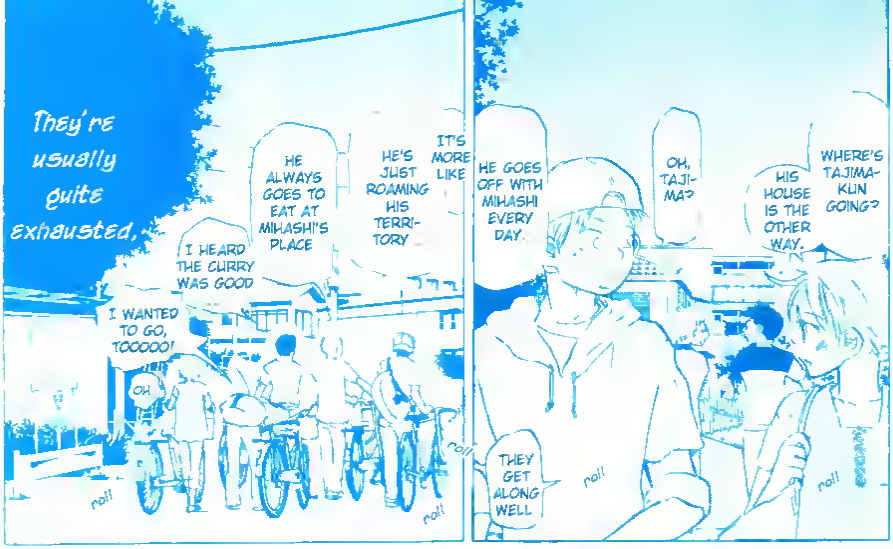
RECRUITMENT OPEN FOR ALL POSITIONS,
EXPERIENCE APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED.
JAP>ENG TRANSLATORS ESPECIALLY NEEDED.

WE'RE CAPSLOCK FRIENDLY :D

THE PLAYERS AND THE MANAGER ON A SUMMER DAY

They buy food under 100 yen to get enough energy for the bike ride home
Most days, all the players stop at the convenience store on the way home.
KNNK


There's a big CD rental store on the lower road, so people heading that way go with them
LOWER ROAD, STOPPING AT THE CD STORE, TOO.
UPPER ROAD.
After that, they split into "upper road" and "lower road" groups
GOING WITH THEM PART OF THE WAY.


They're usually quite exhausted.
I WANTED TO GO, TOOOOO!
OH...
I HEARD THE CURRY WAS GOOD
HE ALWAYS GOES TO EAT AT MIHASHI'S PLACE
HE'S JUST ROAMING HIS TERRI-TORY
IT'S MORE LIKE
HE GOES OFF WITH MIHASHI EVERY DAY.
THEY GET ALONG WELL
OH, TAJI-MA?
HIS HOUSE IS THE OTHER WAY.
WHERE'S TAJIMA-KUN GOING?
nol

they shower and eat before going to bed
Homework is done after morning practice
But as soon as they arrive home,
77

See you tomor-row!
hum hum
jingle
jingle
Good work! Good night!